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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-235
Friday
8 December 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-235 *8 December 1989*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

ICO Issues Statement on Comoros Situation *[SPA]* 1
'Great Strides' Made in New Iraq-Iran Mediation *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Dec]* 1
Economic Unity Council Ministers Meet in Amman *[Amman Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Bal'awi Issues Statement on U.S. Remarks on Talks *[Algiers VOP]* 1
Criticizes 'Conflicting' U.S. Statements *[Baghdad VOP]* 2
Hawatimah Addresses Rally on U.S. Plan, 'Pressure' *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 5 Dec]* 2
U.S. 'Relatively Reassuring' on Peace Plan *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Dec]* 3
DFLP Denies PLO Agreed to Baker Plan *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
Abu-Sharif Denies Tension in PLO-Egypt Relations *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 6 Dec]* 3
Further on 'Arafat-Waldheim Meeting in Tunis *[Sanaa VOP]* 4
Fatah Mourns 'Martyrdom' of Nabulus 'Heroes' *[Baghdad VOP]* 4
Al-Husayni on Confinement, Peace Efforts *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
PLO Spokesman Denies Unsigned 'Government' Plan *[Jeddah AL-MADINAH 30 Nov]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Bendjedid Discusses Reform Process, Presidency *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Nov]* 7
National Front for Renewal Becomes 'Legitimate' *[Algiers TV]* 7
Assembly Reduces Military Service to 18 Months *[Algiers TV]* 7
Three New Publications Reported *[Algiers Radio]* 7

Egypt

Editorial Views 'Riddle' of U.S. Mideast Policy *[AL-AHRAM 5 Dec]* 7
Commentary on U.S., Soviet Middle East Strategy *[Cairo Radio]* 8
Egypt Denies Israeli Claims on Infiltration *[Beirut Radio]* 8
Egypt, Libya Explore Reopening Relations Offices *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Dec]* 9
Paper Comments on Lebanese Situation, 'Awn Stand *[MENA]* 9
Air Defense Command, Control Center Operational *[MENA]* 9
Study on Violence by University Students Released *[AL-WAFD 4 Dec]* 9
Leadership Studies Report on Workers Abroad *[AL-WAFD 3 Dec]* 10

Libya

'Action' Urged on Comoros Situation *[JANA]* 10
DPRK Signs Maritime Cooperation Agreement *[Tripoli Radio]* 10

Mauritania

Taya Says 10,000 Moors Killed in April Clashes *[AFP]* 10
Ruling Council Member Leaves for Baghdad Meeting *[Nouakchott Radio]* 11

Morocco

Foreign Minister Comments on Lebanese Situation *[Beirut Radio]* 11
Libya's Al-Humaydi, Delegation Arrive 30 Nov *[JANA]* 11
Conclude Visit 3 Dec *[JANA]* 11
Finance Minister Discusses Debt Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Nov]* 11

Sudan

Al-Bashir Meets With Sultan of Oman *[SUNA]* 12
Al-Bashir Rejects Idea of Peace at Any Cost *[SUNA]* 12
Khalifah on Carter Role in Nairobi Talks *[SUNA]* 13
'No Progress' in Government Talks With Garang *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Dec]* 13
Negotiator Says Nairobi Talks 'Successful' *[Omdurman Radio]* 13
Two Students Killed in Clashes With Police *[BBC]* 13
Reportage on Doctors' Srike, Official Reaction 14
Communists Blamed for Strike *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 30 Nov]* 14
Salih Denounces Strike *[SUNA]* 14
Strike Called Communist Scheme *[MENA]* 14
Paper Cited on Doctors' Plot *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Doctors Return to Work 2 Dec *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Doctor's Death Reports Refuted *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Doctors Plead Guilty in Strike *[SUNA]* 16
Foreign Ministry Statement on Operation Lifeline *[Omdurman Radio]* 16

Tunisia

Talks With Egypt Emphasize 'Excellent' Relations *[Tunis Radio]* 16
Waldheim Arrives 4 Dec for Official 3-Day Visit *[Vienna ORF Teletext]* 16
Discusses Middle East *[Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG 6 Dec]* 17

Western Sahara

Polisario's Sayed on Talks With Morocco *[Paris International]* 17
Ministerial Reshuffle Announced 4 Dec *[APS]* 17

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Hizballah Tied to Attempted Bombing of Airliner *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Dec]* 18

Yemen Arab Republic

Standing Committee Briefed on Unity; Statement *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
PDRY Staff Chief Arrives, Remarks on Unity *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Military Officials Hold Talks *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Britain's Waldegrave Arrives, Makes Statement *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
Meets With President Salih *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
Confers With Prime Minister *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
Meets Development Minister *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Holds News Conference, Departs *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Ethiopian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
Meets With Yemeni Counterpart *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
President Receives Ethiopian Minister *[Sanaa Radio]* 22
Minister Dinka Departs *[Sanaa Radio]* 22

IRAQ

Minister Cables President on Military Developments 23
Satellite-carrier Rocket System Tested *[Voice of the Masses]* 23

2,000-km Range Missiles Produced *[Voice of the Masses]* 23
Saddam Comments on Satellite Rocket Launch Test *[Voice of the Masses]* 24
Baghdad TV Shows Film of Latest Military Technology 24
Broadcasts Rocket Launch Test *[INA]* 24
Shows 'Adnan-1 Airplane *[INA]* 24
Assembly Asks Parliamentary Union To Leave Syria *[INA]* 24
'Aziz, Socialist Country Envoys Meet Again *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
Minister Returns From OPEC Meeting, Comments *[INA]* 24

ISRAEL

Officials Respond to Egypt's Reply to Baker 25
Shamir, Arens Review Response *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Arens Notes 'Slow Process' *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
Rabin on 'Positive Development' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Aide Urges 'Extreme Caution' *[Jerusalem TV]* 26
Moda'i Feels 'Very Unhappy' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 27
Sharon Says PLO Gave Reply *[Jerusalem TV]* 28
Levi Takes 'Grave View' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Figures in Territories React *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Arens Tells Baker of 'Favorable View' of Reply *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Forum of Four Endorses Response to Baker Plan *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Justice Minister Says PLO 'Incapable' of Peace *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Hungarian Trade Minister Beck Conducts Visit 29
Received by Shamir 7 Dec *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Signs Development Agreement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Discusses Hungary's Future *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Shomron Urges New Legislation To Fight Uprising *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Defense Sources Detail Al-Husayni Activities *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Al-Husayni Interviewed on Confinement Order *[AL-QUDS 7 Dec]* 31

LEBANON

Kuwaiti Paper Previews Interview With Al-Hirawi *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 6 Dec]* 32
Cabinet Ends Meeting, Nixes Ambassador to U.S. *[Beirut Radio]* 32
General Michel 'Awn Calls for Referendum *[Paris LIBERATION 4 Dec]* 33
'Awn Says Danger of Confrontation 'Receding' *[VOL]* 34
PSP's Walid Junblatt Declares 'Awn Must Go *[Paris LIBERATION 4 Dec]* 34
Junblatt Sees Military Moves as Likely Solution *[Paris LE FIGARO 6 Dec]* 35
Kuwaiti Paper Reports French Plan for Lebanon *[KUNA]* 36
Fighting Between Amal, Hizballah Continues 37
Official Demands Inquiry *[VOM]* 37
Syrians Move To End Clashes *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Clashes Reportedly Continuing *[RFL]* 37
7 Wounded in Fighting *[VOL]* 37
Cease-Fire Agreement 8 Dec *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 37
Clashes 'Escalate'; 5 Dead *[RFL]* 37
Confrontation Lines in Beirut *[VOL]* 38
Birri Urges 'Self-Restraint' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
'Fierce' Fighting Erupts *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Iranian Embassy Intercedes *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Syrians To Enforce Cease-Fire *[RFL]* 38

SYRIA

Syria Seeks To Avoid Military Force Against 'Awn *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Lebanon's Plight 'Will Not Last Much Longer' *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Officials Address Rally on Intifadah Anniversary *[SANA]* 40
Paper Gives 'Political Analysis' of Malta Meeting *[AL-THAWRAH 2 Dec]* 41
Al-Asad Receives Phone Call From King Husayn *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Arab League's Ibrahimi Arrives in Damascus 6 Dec *[SANA]* 42

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

President Najibullah Greets Mali's Traore *[BAKHTAR]* 43
Najibullah Greets Finland's President Koivisto *[BAKHTAR]* 43
Najibullah Meets With Hazara Nationals *[BAKHTAR]* 43
Soviet Paper Interviews Najibullah 7 Dec *[BAKHTAR]* 43
Opposition Groups Continue 'Fierce' Clashes *[Kabul Radio]* 44
Ministry Issues Statement on Refugees in Iran *[Kabul Radio]* 44
Mujahidin Offensive Near Baghlan Reported *[Islamabad Radio]* 45

India

Singh Says Ties With USSR To Be Strengthened *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Singh Comments on IPKF Pullout, Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 45
New Lok Sabha Scheduled To Meet 18 Dec *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Ministers Promise To Shun Armed Guards *[AFP]* 45
Mirdha Sworn in as Civil Supplies Minister *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Sri Lanka's Ranjan Wijeratne Meets With Gujral *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Court Orders Release of 4 in Indira Gandhi Case *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Muslims Close Kashmir Bars; Theaters, Shops Next *[AFP]* 46

Iran

* Supreme Court Chief Justice Interviewed *[RESALAT 13 Nov]* 47
* RESALAT Reports on 12 Nov Majles Session *[RESALAT 13 Nov]* 49
Newspaper Condemns Austrian 'Siege' of Embassy *[TEHRAN TIMES 4 Dec]* 53
Views U.S., USSR Influence *[TEHRAN TIMES 3 Dec]* 54
Protest Lodged With UN Over Iraqi Violations *[IRNA]* 55
Mines Minister Views Export, Import of Minerals *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Commentary Warns Against Liberalism *[KEYHAN 25 Nov]* 55
Commentator Discusses Continuing 'Oppression' *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 21 Nov]* 56

Pakistan

President Receives UK Minister; Accord Signed *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
President Witnesses Air Exercise at Sargodha *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Faisalabad-Bound Plane Delayed Due to Bomb Hoax *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
AFP Reports Bomb Scare 58

Sri Lanka

President Briefs Cabinet on Dispatching Envoy *[Colombo Radio]* 58
LTTE Asks Singh To Free 'Political Prisoners' *[AFP]* 58
5,000 Indian Troops Withdraw From Mannar 7 Dec *[AFP]* 59
Security Forces, Police Trap 300 TNA Troops *[LANKAPUVATH]* 59

Inter-Arab Affairs

ICO Issues Statement on Comoros Situation

LD0612210489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2025 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has expressed its deep concern with regard to the new situation in the Islamic Republic of the Comoros Island, an ICO member-state, and vis-a-vis the danger facing the republic's institutions, which constitutes a violation of the independence and sovreignty of the Comoros people.

In a statement issued today, Wednesday, by Secretary General Dr Hamid al-Ghabid, the Secretariat condemned the armed mercenary band that is trying to take over power in the Islamic Republic of Comoros. This group already has assassinated President Ahmad Abdallah, one of the Islamic leaders who used to enjoy full respect.

The ICO called on the organization's members to grant the urgent necessary aid and support to His Excellency President Sa'id Muhammad Jawhar, the iterim president of the Islamic Republic of Comoros, so that this country may recover its legitimacy and its republican constitutional system.

The ICO appealed to the international community, and particularly the countries where these mercenaries belong, to assume their responsibility an participate in the efforts being made in this connection.

'Great Strides' Made in New Iraq-Iran Mediation

PM0812091989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Dec 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Diplomatic Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Gulf State Mediating To Arrange Reconciliation Summit Between Iraq and Iran"]

[Text] Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Gulf bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that an Arab Gulf state is mediating—as yet behind the scenes—to arrange an Iraqi-Iranian reconciliation summit at the level of the two leaderships.

Gulf diplomatic sources said that the state in question has made great strides in this regard and that Iraq has agreed on condition that the topic of the meeting be a discussion of the possibility of signing a memorandum of comprehensive peace that would end all the outstanding conditions between the two countries, including the immediate and comprehensive exchange of POW's a few days after the summit is convened. This is in addition to settling the issue of Iraq's sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab, together with Iran's promise to open a new page in relations not only with Iraq but with all Arab Gulf states, and to stop interfering in the internal affairs of any state in the region.

The sources confirmed that Iraq expressed its total willingness to conduct a complete diplomatic exchange with Iran if it shows a real desire.

No detailed information is available about the Iranian position, though there are signs of the existence of a true desire for peace and the opening of a new page of relations of good-neighborliness and cooperation with all countries of the region.

Economic Unity Council Ministers Meet in Amman

JN0612172289 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Ministers of economy, trade, and finance of member states of the Council of Arab Economic Unity opened in Amman today [sentence as heard]. The ministers will discuss the annual report of the council's secretary general dealing with international economic trends and changes and the process of Arab economic integration. The council budget will also come under discussion.

Palestinian Affairs

Bal'awi Issues Statement on U.S. Remarks on Talks

LD0712222389 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Statement by Hakem Bal'awi, Fatah Movement Central Committee member, on U.S. spokesman's comments on PLO-U.S. talks in Tunis; issued 7 December—announcer read]

[Text] Now and again, U.S. Administration spokesmen make statements tackling issues related to the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and the meetings that take place within the framework of this dialogue, which are open and held either at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis or on PLO premises with the knowledge of and prior instructions by the two sides' higher authorities. They describe these meetings as informal, and this description has been at times conferred on the memoranda and documents exchanged between them.

The most recent of these statements was made by the U.S. State Department spokesman when he pointed out that His Excellency Ambassador Pelletreau has received from Hamal Bal'awi, the PLO representative to Tunis, a document which Mr Pelletreau described as informal.

Regardless of its content and object, it is normal to consider all the documents and memoranda which we hand out directly to the U.S. Administration as a formal (?stand), put forward to it [words indistinct]. The same should apply to what we receive in exchange from the U.S. Administration through the same direct channels. We consider them formal stands, and we receive them from the U.S. Administration on the formal basis in which they are sent to us through its Tunis embassy, because it is the only channel which has been announced

since the 1st day of the (?beginning of the) fundamental dialogue between the PLO and the U.S. Administration.

This clarification was made necessary by our endeavor to follow up the urgent effort, intensive consultations, and continuous contacts with the U.S. Adminsiration through its embassy in Tunis to give an impetus to the peace process.

It is regrettable that this should be repeated by the U.S. Administration spokesmen, because the peace process and its path require more contacts and meetings, which will not be informal, because they take place between two sides.

Criticizes 'Conflicting' U.S. Statements

JN0712205889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1945 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and Palestinian ambassador in Tunis, has criticized the conflicting statements made by U.S. spokesmen on the dialogue meetings held in the Tunisian capital between the United States and the PLO.

In an exclusive statement to the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, brother Hakam Bal'awi expressed amazement over the statement made by the U.S. State Department spokesman—statements to the effect that his meetings with U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau are unofficial and that the documents submitted by the PLO to the United States through Pelletreau are also deemed unofficial.

Brother Hakam Bal'awi asked the United States to view the documents submitted by the PLO to Pelletreau as documents officially obligating the PLO and expressing its position.

Hawatimah Addresses Rally on U.S. Plan, 'Pressure'

JN0712172489 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 5 Dec 89 pp 1, 30

[By Mayy Rumani]

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has said that the PLO has clearly rejected the Baker plan. He indicated that the Baker plan is a prelude to the implementation of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan. He called for releasing the potential of Palestinians in the refugee camps in the confrontation states and lifting the restrictions imposed on them to enable them to play a role in supporting the intifadah.

He said the PLO is being subjected to daily and continued U.S. pressure to force it to accept Secretary of State James Baker's plan for elections in the occupied Palestinian territories.

At a crowded speech rally at the Palestine Embassy in Kuwait last night following his arrival in Kuwait on a brief visit, Hawatimah added that these pressures mean one thing for us; namely, that the PLO is asked collectively to abandon its duty as the representative of the Palestinian people.

He said: Our clear response was and still is: It is not possible to deal with the Baker plan on any terms other than the resolutions of the Palestine National Council and PLO Central Council.

He stated that the PLO adheres to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state through a comprehensive solution to the Palestine question within the framework of a UN-sponsored international conference to be attended by the PLO and other parties as well as the UN Security Council permanent member states.

He went on to say: The Baker plan can be dealt with only in accordance with the resolutions of our councils, which affirm that the PLO is the only qualified party to form the Palestinian delegation—from inside and outside Palestine—to take part in talks. The talks must be based on an open agenda, without preconditions, and on the condition that the results of the elections be part of a comprehensive and just settlement.

The Palestinian official described the Baker plan as a prelude to the implementation of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan.

He said, in view of the insistence of the United States and Israel on their positions, the PLO called for an extraordinary meeting by the Arab League Council to rally support for Palestinian decisions and to explain the continued U.S. pressure—pressure applied in messages to Arab foreign ministers urging them not to take a decision that would obstruct the Baker plan and to advise the PLO to accept that plan.

Hawatimah praised the resolutions of the Arab League Council emergency session and the Arab foreign ministers' noncompliance with the U.S. request. He urged the Arab states to abide by the Casablanca summit resolutions.

He said in light of these circumstances, pressures, and maneuvers, the PLO must continue to struggle, but should not halt the dialogue and should pursue a flexible and realistic policy. He said the PLO, however, should promote the intifadah in the occupied territories and channel all forms of financial support to the national leadership in the occupied territories, including popular committees and strike forces, because they are in the best position to know the situation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

He also called for ending the tragedy of civil war in Lebanon in light of the recent developments there and the election of a new president and the formation of a new government. He also called for the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement and the restoration of the intimate, blood-baptized [Palestinian] relations with the nationalist Lebanese forces.

He called for releasing the resources of Palestinians in the refugee camps in the Arab confrontation states and removing the restrictions imposed on them to enable them to play a role in supporting the intifadah.

DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah called for the formation of an Arab committee on the intifadah in response to the Arab Casablanca summit resolutions to discuss the Palestinian state issue with the UN Security Council permanent member states and the European states.

He stressed the need for the five great powers, especially the United States, to recognize the PLO's full representative role.

He further stressed the need for the United States to move from the stage of dialogue with the PLO to recognizing it as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. He said the United States should stop looking for alternatives to the PLO, adding that the United States must recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He emphasized the importance of preparations for an international peace conference on the Middle East. He underlined the importance of convincing Western Europe to put pressure on the U.S. Administration

He also said that in their recent meeting, the Arab foreign ministers unanimously approved the Palestinian paper urging the U.S. and Soviet presidents to discuss the Middle East on the basis of the Casablanca summit resolutions when they meet in Malta .

U.S. 'Relatively Reassuring' on Peace Plan

PM0812122089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Dec 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Abu-Iyad: We Gave Washington Positive Reply to Baker Plan"]

[Text] Paris, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Soviet diplomatic sources in Cairo have announced that U.S. President Bush emphasized at the Malta summit Washington's adherence to the Reagan administration's policy concerning the continuation of the dialogue between the United States and the PLO—which means developing it and making it constructive. The sources said that despite the U.S. President's negative position on the possibility of preparing a U.S.-Soviet plan for a settlement in the Middle East, he formed a positive assessment of the recent Soviet initiative in the Middle East, emphasizing its constructiveness and objectiveness.

The sources emphasized that the Soviet position proceeds from the fact that resolving the problem at the other side's expense is no longer an issue, and that in view of the present situation no true progress can be achieved at the expense of the people's legitimate rights, nor at the expense of the individuals' rights and freedoms.

In Paris Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) confirmed that on 1 December the PLO conveyed to Washington, via Egypt, a very positive reply to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals concerning an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

He said that PLO also conveyed the reply to U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau, who met last Friday with PLO representative in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi.

Abu-Iyad described the PLO's reply as "very positive," but refused to disclose its content, saying that this was up to the U.S. State Department. He also refused to comment on the reports published by the Israeli newspaper, THE JERUSALEM POST, in that regard to the effect that the PLO has accepted Baker's plan.

He added that Baker's plan is—probably on purpose—very ambiguous and obscure. Asked whether the PLO received a satisfactory response to the clarifications which it has requested from the United States several times, Abu-Iyad said that Washington's recent reply was relatively reassuring, whereas previous replies were even more ambiguous than the plan.

He said: We would not reject the plan if it is a step toward a comprehensive solution and if it does not exclude the PLO, which must participate in all negotiations. He stressed once again that the PLO alone must form a Palestinian delegation to a possible dialogue with the Israelis.

Abu-Iyad admitted the existence of differences between the Soviet Union and the PLO over the question of Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel, where 100,000 of them are expected to arrive by the end of 1990.

DFLP Denies PLO Agreed to Baker Plan

JN0812124889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] today denied that the PLO has agreed to the Baker plan. The DFLP said that the Palestinian response reiterated that any Palestinian-Israeli dialogue must have an open agenda, must be without preconditions, and must take place under international supervision provided that the PLO chooses the delegation members.

Abu-Sharif Denies Tension in PLO-Egypt Relations

JN0712205489 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 Dec 89 p 30

[By Hasan Sati and Sawsan Abu-Husayn]

[Text] Cairo—In a statement to AL-ANBA', Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, has denied reports published in Egyptian opposition party newspapers yesterday on tension in relations between Egypt and the PLO and the existence of American pressures on Egypt to convince the PLO make concessions. Abu-Sharif said: We have confidence in President Mubarak's

stance supporting and backing the Palestinian people's national rights. This position is firm and cannot be shaken, for whatever reason, because the relationship between Egypt and the PLO is one of fraternity and strong friendship. The political cooperation with Cairo does exist and continues in an intensive manner.

Abu-Sharif noted that the American-Palestinian dialogue continues to give momentum to the peace process in the Middle East as a result of the positive position adopted by the PLO.

Abu-Sharif added that President 'Arafat sent a message to President Bush this month, the contents of which have not yet been divulged. He said: However, I can say that it is positive and constructive. We exchange opinions on recent developments through the numerous sessions between American Ambassador in Tunis Pelletreau and PLO Ambassador in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi. During the last session, the PLO presented its viewpoint on the American five points.

Further on 'Arafat-Waldheim Meeting in Tunis

JN0712185689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met yesterday morning with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim. They reviewed international efforts to push the Middle East peace process forward. Brother Abu 'Ammar underscored the PLO's resolve to continue its efforts to achieve peace and explained the deteriorating conditions in the occupied Palestinian land and the Israeli criminal escalation against our people.

President Waldheim reiterated Austria's support for our people's inalienable national rights and his country's respect for these rights according to UN resolutions. He also renewed Austria's support for the Palestinian peace initiative and the proclamation of Palestinian independence.

Attending the friendly talks on the Palestinian side were brothers Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member; Dawood Barakat, PLO represenative to Austria; and Dr Sami Musallam, head of President Yasir 'Arafat's office. On the Austrian side the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Alois Mock, the political director of the Foreign Ministry, and the Austrian ambassador to Tunis.

Fatah Mourns 'Martyrdom' of Nabulus 'Heroes'

JN0212184689 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1740 GMT 2 Dec 89

[The "News Headlines" feature]

[Excerpt] The Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah—the al-'Asifah Forces General Command—announces to the masses of the Arab nation and masses of our Palestinian people—the people of the intifadah and revolution—and to all militant and free men in the world the martyrdom of three heroes from the strike forces of the Unified National Leadership of the intifadah, who fell after a fierce battle in the streets of Nabulus' casbah district between our strike forces and the Zionist enemy troops on 1 December on the soil of the valiant town of Nabulus, thus writing with their pure blood a new epic to be added to the epics of heroism written by heroes of the strike forces and the masses of the people of Palestine against Zionist occupation troops in every town, village, and refugee camp in our occupied homeland.

The three martyred heroes are: 'Umar 'Abd-al-Majid Hafiz 'Arafat, 21 years old; 'Imad-al-Din Ahmad 'Ali Nasir, 23; and Hani Muhammad Sa'id Tayyim, 21. Our heroes managed to kill two of the Zionist occupation troops. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni on Confinement, Peace Efforts

JN0812060089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, director of the East Jerusalem Institute for Arab Studies, by Kamal Tarabayh from the studio; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Tarabayh] The Israeli authorities issued an order yesterday forbidding you from leaving Jerusalem for 6 months. Could you explain this order and the reasons behind it?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, the order was meant to prevent me from entering the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Two orders were issued: One from the comander of the Central Command forbidding me from entering the West Bank, and another from the commander of the Southern Command forbidding me from entering Gaza. This means I can leave Jerusalem but not to go to these two areas. As a matter of fact, this order is not unusual for me. You may know that I was under mandatory house arrest in Jerusalem day and night for 5 successive years from 1982-1987. Later, four administrative detention orders were issued against me. They lasted for 18 months between 1987 and 1989. The charges at the beginning were said to be contained in a secret file that they refused to divulge. However, this time, although I was not officially notified of the reason for the confinement and although they only said it was for the security of the people, they told Israeli and foreign reporters the reason behind the order. They said it was issued because I instigated the people of Bayt Sahur not to pay taxes and those in Gaza not to use the magnetic cards. They also said I carried out some activities by which I tried to find a substitute for the Israeli judiciary system. These were the three reasons they gave.

[Tarabayh] The Israeli authorities stress that you are a PLO member and that you are directly responsible for PLO activities in the occupied territories? Is this true?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, I am a Palestinian living under occupation. Like other Palestinians, I am part of the resistance against Israeli occupation. I am part of the Palestinian people's intifadah. By the way, if you review the PLO's law, you will find that every Palestinian is a member of this organization by birth.

[Tarabayh] Should the current contacts and consultations succeed in securing an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo, will you personally participate as a member of the Palestinian delegation? If yes, will you participate as an independent Palestinian or will you negotiate in the name of the PLO?

[Al-Husayni] The party that determines the members of this delegation is the PLO. Hence, if the PLO asks me to be a member of the delegation, I will respond and will then be a representative of the party selecting me—a representative of the people and the PLO.

[Tarabayh] You have lived with the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories since its beginning. Tomorrow, the intifadah enters its 3d year. What is your assessment of this phenomenon and has the independent state come within a stone's throw away, as Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is emphasizing?

[Al-Husayni] Let us first try to understand the nature of the intifadah. The intifadah is not a military operation. This means it does not aim to liberate every inch of Palestinian territory. The intifadah seeks to liberate minds and ideas. It is therefore waging a war on four fronts. The first is that of Palestinian public opinion. The second is Israeli public opinion. The third is world opinion. And lastly Arab public opinion. During the 1st year, the battle was for Palestinian public opinion. It was an internal battle inside every Palestinian individual. It was a real battle between absolute justice and possible justice; between the legitimate dream and reality. I think that with the end of this year, the 1st year, the matter was settled with the launching of the Palestinian initiative by the Palestine National Council and the adoption of the two-state solution. With the emergence of these Palestinian peace initiatives, the Palestinian people began to feel that they were armed with something with which they could fight on other fronts. Consequently, we began the 2d year with our battle for world opinion. I believe that in the 2d year we scored victories in this area, particularly in Europe, and with considerable successes in the U.S. arena, relatively speaking. You know that the battle was waged through peace proposals, plans, and initiatives. Talk about these centered only on Palestinian representation and who would represent the Palestinians. Now that we are at the end of the 2d year, I believe that we have achieved the victories we hoped for and the matter was settled that Palestinian representation should be Palestinian and by the PLO.

Now, in the 3d year, I think we will begin to prepare for the battle on the third front, the front of Israeli public opinion, especially since public opinion there is now prepared to undertake large-scale changes within the Israeli society. The situation in Israel is now as follows: There are two distinctly divergent camps: The camp of doves, which has become more dovish and the camp of hawks, which became more hawkish. But what gives us pleasure is that the camp of doves, which I can also call the camp of peace and democracy, began seriously to feel that the continuation of occupation undermines the democratic image of Israel in the minds of this camp and builds up a new extremist right wing that might lead to some sort of fascism. This has started gradually to dominate the situation in Israel. The camp of peace and democracy is now committed to the battle, not only to satisfy one's conscience, but also to defend itself. Under the pressure of the intifadah and through our understanding of this situation and by seeking the help of world opinion, which we won during the 2d year, we can help this camp win its battle inside Israeli society so that a government capable of dealing with peace and the real interests of this region's peoples will emerge.

As for the second part of the question, whether the state is within the reach of a stone's throw, I think the answer is yes. We are now closer to the Palestinian state, but have also entered the most difficult and complicated stage.

PLO Spokesman Denies Unsigned 'Government' Plan

PM0712171589 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 30 Nov 89 p 14

[Unattributed report: "Al-Natshah Tells AL-MADINAH: Provisional Government Will Be Announced When Necessary Conditions Are Available"]

[Text] Palestinian ambassador to the kingdom Rafiq al-Natshah—"Abu-Shakir"—has emphasized that the formation of a provisional government in exile is a decision for the Palestine National Council, is under discussion, and will be announced at the right time, namely, when all necessary studies are conducted in order to avoid any duality between it and the PLO, which will continue to carry out all the tasks for which it was created.

Rafiq al-Natshah said this to AL-MADINAH in reply to a question on media reports about an unsigned Palestinian document distributed in occupied Jerusalem and including a draft plan for the announcement of a provisional Palestinian government comprising 14 ministries.

Palestine's ambassador added: When the conditions necessary to the common interest are present, the Palestinian government will be officially announced through the official media organs, not through an unsigned document distributed somewhere inside or outside Palestine.

Ambassador al-Natshah said that the institutions supervised by the PLO are legitimate institutions recognized by most of the world's states, which have also recognized the independent Palestinian state. And there are Palestinian institutions on Palestinian territory which receive aid from the PLO and international establishments.

The Palestinian official pointed out that what is required in the stage ahead is to transfer all Palestinian state and PLO institutions to the Palestinian territories, where the independent Palestinian state must be established.

Ambassador al-Natshah emphasized: That is the political and military struggle issue for the Palestinian people in particular and the Arab people and the Islamic and friendly peoples in general.

Asked about the challenges and threats facing the Palestinian people's intifadah, Al-Natshah said: With regard to the threats facing the intifadah, the first and foremost is the Israeli enemy which—backed by the United States—is confronting the intifadah with all means of violence, brutality, and international terrorism.

Al-Natshah added: Israel's brutal practices as well as the financial and informational siege, even if it does prevent food and medicine from reaching the Palestinian people, will not prevent our people from continuing their intifadah, whatever the sacrifices.

Algeria

Bendjedid Discusses Reform Process, Presidency

PM0512145789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Nov 89 pp 1, 2

[By Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish]

[Excerpt] Algiers, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and the French newspaper LIBERATION, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid emphasized that he wants to leave the grass roots to discuss matters freely and decide for themselves. He added: There are no real differences, and it is natural for the grass roots to call for rejuvenating the leadership, because it is unnatural that we should ask the grass roots to proceed with implementing reforms after the conference with a leadership they did not elect.

In his chat, which took place in one of the offices adjoining the conference hall, President Bendjedid went on to say: I have always said that there can be no deadlock and that we must be realistic. However, that does not mean that we abandon our principles; some facts must be taken into account.

He then said: Reforms are a whole and cannot be divided, since we cannot separate economic reforms from political reforms. Look at the states that have undertaken economic reforms without political reforms and see the result.

On AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's remark concerning the absence of the president's portrait from the conference hall, contrary to previous conferences at which a huge portrait dominated the rostrum, he said: I ordered that the portrait not be hung, because I am against glorifying individuals. Actually, I was against that at the recent conference; in fact, I have been against that since the front's fifth conference.

Responsible quarters had informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the portrait was actually hung, but the president ordered its removal a few days ago.

Answering AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's question on what the conference would have looked like had he not attended, he said: As president of the Republic, I am president of all Algerians. But I am chairman of the National Liberation Front, and I will not abandon the front. I support the front and I will always do so, but that does not mean I am not president of all Algerians, including the opposition. [passage omitted]

National Front for Renewal Becomes 'Legitimate'

LD0512095889 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] In our political life, the National Front for Renewal became legitimate today after being recognized as a political society by the Ministry of Interior.

The National Front for Renewal applied for recognition on 3 October. Its residence is in Bedjaia. It is the 13th political society to obtain legitimacy.

Assembly Reduces Military Service to 18 Months

LD0612211889 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Excerpts] We will continue the national life characterized by the activity of the National People's Assembly in the framework of its fall session. [passage omitted]

In the framework of these proceedings, the National People's Assembly today officially fixed with its vote the legal duration of military service, which it reduced to 18 months from 2 years. [passage omitted]

In the same framework, the National People's Assembly approved the nonpursuit henceforth of some of those concerned by the obligations of military service who are over 30 years old. The law that has been approved includes all individual cases without distinction and concerns the cases of those whose conscription had been postponed, those who are being pursued, those wanted, and finally those who were sentenced by courts. [passage omitted]

Three New Publications Reported

LD0812094189 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The Rally for Culture and Democracy, which ends its precongress meetings on 8 December, has published its first two publications in Arabic and Berber.

Another paper, ALGERIE REPUBLICAIN, run by Abdelhamid Benzine, is publishing its first issue.

Egypt

Editorial Views 'Riddle' of U.S. Mideast Policy

JN0712204289 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 Dec 89 p 6

[Editorial: "From One Riddle to Another"]

[Text] It seems that PLO initiatives taken since it adopted the decision to establish the state—a year after the revolutionary intifadah—are condemned to stalemate and rejection. These initiatives gained popular and international support throughout the world, while the other camp lacked any influential or effective momentum as a result of its self-isolation in closed positions.

Recently, a phenomenon that merits consideration emerged. The American position, for example, tied itself up in international quarters by its refusal to condemn Israel for its repressive measures in the occupied territory, while U.S. officials expressed their condemnation in their statements. Although many observers considered

this a riddle, the only explanation for it is that the United States rejects any international criticism of Israel and prefers to give advice through calm diplomacy, because building bridges is much better than destroying them.

However, this attitude, which was characterized by appeasement with regard to the Israeli affairs, was, on the other hand, unfair with regard to Palestinian affairs. This is despite the fact that the positive developments in this area were more Palestinian than Israeli. The best evidence is the Palestinian acceptance of the principle of local elections and dialogue with Israel.

In conclusion, the American position was very hard on the Palestinians, despite their flexibility, and very tolerant toward the Israelis, despite their intransigence and rigidity. Although America recognized the PLO, the Tunis dialogue was obstructed, and Washington's policy became rigid; and although more than two thirds of the UN member states recognized the PLO and the Palestinian state, the Americans were ready to thwart any attempt in any international body to fulfil Palestinian legitimacy in this regard. In fact, America threatens to stop its aid to these organizations affiliated with the United Nations. This happened in the case of the FAO, which ignored the American threat and endorsed cooperation with the PLO to provide aid to the people of the occupied territory; and in the case of the UN General Assembly with regard to changing the status of the PLO from a movement observer to a state observer. The United States threatened to reduce its contribution to the UN budget itself.

The real riddle is why America is forced to stand against the world and threaten its organizations?

Commentary on U.S., Soviet Middle East Strategy

NC0712151089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "Is There a Change in the Two Superpowers' Strategy on the Middle East?"]

[Text] Following the statements by the leaders of the two superpowers, U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, that they had closely discussed the situation in the Middle East during their summit, all those concerned with the Middle East problem are asking whether there has been a change in the two countries' strategies toward the region.

Before attempting to answer this question, we must point out that neither of the two leaders said that a definite agreement on how to tackle all aspects of the situation in the region had been reached. This fact was underlined by John Kelly, assistant U.S. secretary of state, following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak on Tuesday during which he briefed the president on the U.S. view of the discussions that took place at the U.S.-Soviet Malta summit. Kelly said that there had been no agreement on definite steps between the two presidents.

Observers had not expected an agreement on definite steps between the two sides, neither on the Middle East nor on any of the major issues that had priority at this summit. Many of these observers were surprised that the Middle East problem was even discussed to a certain extent during the discussions of other regional problems around the world. If we go back to our question on whether there is a change in the two countries' strategy toward the region, we can safely say that such a change is completely out of the question. As far as the United States is concerned, the Middle East will long remain a vital region because of its economic interests, the most important of which is its oil needs. In addition, the region is a important market for the United States. There are also the deep financial relations between it and most of the countries in the region, particularly the Arab oil-producing countries. The same applies to the Soviet Union, to which the region is geographically important, as it is adjacent to its southern borders. The Soviet Union is also looking toward expanding its commercial and economic dealings with the region in general.

Thus there has been no change in strategies, but we can also safely say that there has been a basic change, the effects of which will inevitably be felt in the two superpowers' dealings with each other about the region. More precisely, the military confrontation between the two sides in the region will soon recede to a great degree, if it does not disappear completely. In light of the new historic world changes, the two superpowers will work to coordinate their interests in the region. This is the spirit of the new detente in their relationship, as all signs indicate so far. Coordination then will replace confrontation, if matters follow their normal course.

It goes without saying that this new situation will have profound and far-reaching consequences for the situation in the region and for the need to reach solutions to its chronic problems, particularly the Palestinian problem, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Lebanese problem.

But there is another extremely important question: Will detente and coordination between the two superpowers come at the expense of the vital interests and legitimate rights of the countries and peoples in the region, including the Palestinian people? The answer to this depends to a large extent on the peoples and countries in the region and on the extent of their commitment to their rights and their ability to defend these rights.

At any rate, it is indisputable that any peace that is not based on international legitimacy will be a fragile one and will lack substance even if it is imposed by the most powerful forces.

Egypt Denies Israeli Claims on Infilitration

NC0812073189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Egypt has refuted Israeli claims that gunmen crossed the Egyptian-Israeli borders to carry out a major

attack. A ranking official at the Egyptian Defense Ministry emphasized that the ministry has no information about any infilitration attempt on the Egyptian-Israeli borders. The official noted that Egypt conducted extensive investigations to verify the Israeli reports, which, according to the Egyptian official, are purely Israeli claims.

Egypt, Libya Explore Reopening Relations Offices

PM0812091589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Dec 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian-Libyan Contacts To Reopen Relations Offices"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources that contacts are being made between Egypt and Libya via diplomatic channels to set a date for reopening the relations offices in Cairo and Tripoli in the near future in view of the restoration of normal relations between the two countries following the Marsa Matruh and Tobruk meetings between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

'Izz-al-Din al-Hinshiri, secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice, left Cairo yesterday after a 4-day visit to Egypt, during which he participated in the Arab interior ministers council meetings which concluded the day before yesterday.

Paper Comments on Lebanese Situation, 'Awn Stand

NC0612102989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0744 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper warned about covert attempts by non-Arab parties to provide suspicious assistance to General Michel 'Awn, who refuses to recognize the new Lebanese president and the government, which enjoys international backing, to enable him to wreck all initiated measures to restore legitimacy to Lebanon.

In today's editorial, the paper says the Arab world is required now more than ever to stay in control of the situation in Lebanon and not to allow any non-Arab party to try to intervene in any way that would jeopardize the momentous mesaures taken so far.

The paper noted that the Lebanese cause is still an Arab one in the first place and that the entire Arab world is responsible for pursuing its efforts until this fraternal country reaches the shore of safety.

The paper emphasized the need for an effective awareness at this stage to deal with the position 'Awn is adopting, with his reliance on some of his armed supporters, as well as his attempts to coax non-Arab parties to his side. Thus, it said, 'Awn will realize that the Arab world will not permit him to destroy everything for the sake of his suspicious interests and goals.

Air Defense Command, Control Center Operational

NC0612115289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Egyptian air defense forces have started the operation of the development and maintenance center of the automated command and control system program after the specialized equipment was installed at the center.

A Defense Ministry source has disclosed that the center has been supplied with the necessary modern equipment to maintain and develop the automated system's programs. He said communication and exchange of data between the E-2C early warning aircraft and the defense forces' automated command and control system equipment have been established successfully.

It is noteworthy that the automated command and control system, which began to operate recently, is considered to be unique in its type in the world. The system groups Eastern and Western equipment in a single system. It provides a warning time of more than 14 minutes [as received] against any hostility in various strategic areas of Egypt.

Study on Violence by University Students Released

JN0412212889 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Dec 89 p 1

[By Zaki al-Sa'dani]

[Text] A scientific study has attributed the spread of political violence among university students to the interference by the security services in universities' affairs and to the continued use of university guards and the security forces to deal with student demonstrations. In its sessions yesterday, the third annual conference for political research at Cairo University discussed this study. In the study, submitted by Dr Hasanayn Tawfiq, assistant lecturer at the College of Economics and Political Sciences, he warned against the eruption of violence in the 1990s if the political system continues to fail to solve economic problems or to deal with the internal challenges in the citizens daily life, as happened in January 1977 and September 1981.

The scientific study emphasized the continuation of the spread of limited forms of violence, such as demonstrations, riots, disturbances, arrests, and campaigns of detention and prison sentences. The research revealed an increase in political violence during the rule of President Husni Mubarak. It described the "crushed" categories living in the slums as social and political belts of dynamite surrounding the major cities, and as more susceptible to committing acts of violence.

Leadership Studies Report on Workers Abroad

JN0512134389 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 Dec 89 pp 1, 6

[By 'Isam Rif'at]

[Excerpt] The political leadership is studying a serious report prepared by the Interior Ministry on the future of Egyptian workers abroad. The report stressed that the contracts of 3 million Egyptian workers in Jordan, Iraq, and the Gulf states will expire during the next year. The number of unemployed in Egypt is expected to reach 5 million, according to official statistics, and 8 million, according to unofficial statistics.

Reports warned of a catastrophe, and recommended that the returnees should be sent to their native towns and prevented from working or residinng in big cities such as Cairo and Alexandria. The reports warned that the increasing number of unemployed would endanger the domestic situation. These reports stressed the need to find alternatives to absorb some of the returning workers from among other Arab states, except for those states that have dispensed with Egyptian workers due to difficult economic circumstances.

AL-WAFD has learned that Libya has promised to absorb some of the returning workers after the termination within 3 months of the contracts of Korean, Syrian, Turkish, and SFRY workers, or not later than next January. [passage omitted]

Libya

'Action' Urged on Comoros Situation

LD0412220389 Tripoli JANA in English 1618 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun 4 [December], Arab Maghreb Union's Pool, Jana—JANA has learnt that Great al-Jamahiriyah has officially informed the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity regarding what is taking place in the Comoros Islands following the assassination of its President Ahmed Abdallah at the hands of a handful of mercenaries.

The Comoros Islands are still under the control of these mercenaries thereby representing a dangerous precedent in the African Continent necessitating that all the Africans do a serious and urgent action to put an end to this.

Great al-Jamahiriyah has stressed in the letter it has addressed to the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity yesterday that is was fully prepared to undertake whatever was necessary in coordination with African countries within the purview of the O.A.U.

DPRK Signs Maritime Cooperation Agreement

LD0212153689 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] A cooperation agreement was signed this morning in Tripoli between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Democratic Korea. It was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport [Mubarak al-Shamikh] and Chong Song-nam, minister for external economic affairs, in Democratic Korea. The agreement covers cooperation in the fields of maritime transport, trade, agriculture and resources.

Mauritania

Taya Says 10,000 Moors Killed in April Clashes

AB0312081389 Paris AFP in English 1644 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, Dec 2 (AFP)—Mauritanian President Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya has claimed that 10,000 Moors died in ethnic clashes in Senegal last April, adding that his government kept the real figures quiet to avoid a "bloodbath".

Colonel Taya told the French-language monthly magazine ARABIES that "there were real pogroms" against Moors across Senegal. "The toll, in our view, would be as high as 10,000 dead," while just "35 Senegalese died in Mauritania", he said in an interview in the December issue.

"If we had disclosed that Mauritanians—in the event, Moors—had been massacred in thousands in Senegal and shown the hideous figures of pillage and lynching, the whole region would have been swept up in a storm of fire and bloodshed.

"We deliberately censored the news to save lives," he said.

Col. Taya denied what he called "unfounded accusations" that the development of land on the Mauritanian bank of Senegal River between the two countries was the cause of the bloodshed in April.

He added that Senegal was "raising a false problem" by arguing on the basis of a 1933 decree under French colonial rule that the whole breadth of the river as far as the Mauritanian bank was Senegalese.

"It's the first time people have started saying that again for more than 30 years," he said.

According to reports at the time, more than 200 people died in both Senegal and Mauritania when accounts of border clashes led to a sudden explosion of violence in April by Senegalese people against the Moorish Arab traders in their midst.

Some 67,000 people were subsequently repatriated in an international airlift operation. Since April, tension has

remained high in the Senegal River valley, where Mauritanian settlers have moved on to north bank land traditionally cultivated by Senegalese peasants.

There have also been persistent reports—strongly denied in the interview by Col. Taya—that Mauritania has taken advantage of the clashes to expel large numbers of its own black population in an effort to maintain the political supremacy of the Moors.

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) is mediating between Nouakchott and Dakar in a bid to settle the dispute.

Ruling Council Member Leaves for Baghdad Meeting

AB0612111089 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] (Cheiknah Ould Sidna), head of the Mobilization Department of the Military Council for National Salvation, left Nouakchott yesterday evening for a meeting in Baghdad of Arab political institutions and parties. The meeting will be 9 December in Baghdad to set up a patriotic assistance fund for the intifadah, the third anniversary of which coincides with the date of the meeting.

Morocco

Foreign Minister Comments on Lebanese Situation

NC0412082089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] In an interview with AL-SAFIR, Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali has called for tackling the problem of General Michel 'Awn peacefully through political means and dialogue, but he noted that 'Awn has chosen to isolate himself inside the palace like Hamlet.

Filali blamed what he described as invisible foreign interventions for rushing to reshuffle the cards whenever a glimmer of hope appears. He said the French parliamentarians' visit to Lebanon did not come at a proper time and served to add fuel to the fire.

Libya's Al-Humaydi, Delegation Arrive 30 Nov

LD0212003689 Tripoli JANA in English 1828 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, al-Harth [November] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Major al-Khawaylidi al-Humaydi arrived in sisterly Morocco at noon today on a work mission within the framework of the unity meetings and continued consultations amongst the sons of the one Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Morocco on all national and international matters, especially with relation to the Arab Maghreb and bilateral relations.

A big official reception was held at Rabat International airport for major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi headed by Driss Basri, the minister of the interior and information.

Taking part were a number of senior officials in the government and the council of deputies, the Wali of Rabat, Great Jamahiriyah's envoy at the standing secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union and the charge d'affaires at the standing secretariat and its members.

In a statement to the Moroccan media on arrival, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Dhumaydid praised the big progress the bilateral relations are witnessing in various fields of cooperation. He stressed that such outstanding relations' foundations were laid down by the leader of the revolution and King Hassan II and will have the active role and effect upon the march to build the Arab Maghreb.

Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi left Tunis this morning where Chadli Neffati the interior minister and the members of the Libyan Arab Commission in Tunis were at Carthage International airport to bid him farewell.

Conclude Visit 3 Dec

LD0312101789 Tripoli JANA in Enlish 0845 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Tripoli, al-Kanoun [December] 3, Jamahiryah News Agency—Major al-Khawaylidi al-Humaydi last night concluded his working visit to sisterly Morocco which lasted for three days.

An official farewell ceremony was mounted at Rabat Airport for Major al-Khawaylidi before leaving Morocco as Idris al-Basri the minister of interior and information headed the party seeing him off. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Discusses Debt Talks

PM0512145189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Nov 89 p 10

[Interview with Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada by Talhah Jibril in Rabat; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Jibril] Your negotiations with the London Creditor Banks Club are still continuing. Why have these negotiations faltered?

[Berrada] We started the negotiations just 3 months ago, whereas Mexico's negotiations with the London Club resulted in an initial agreement after 4 months of meetings. But they have still not decided how to apply that agreement. Costa Rica has continued to negotiate with the London Club for 18 months, but has still achieved nothing. So, I say that we are still at the beginning and there has been no faltering. And since the negotiations are basically aimed at reducing the debts and the resultant interest, they require a long time because they require complex technical procedures to arrive at an agreement consistent with our conditions and situation

in Morocco. This is because it is not possible to apply the same criteria accepted by Costa Rica, since each country has its own characteristics.

In brief, the negotiations between the two sides are continuing and dominated by understanding, especially as Morocco's relations with the banks are good, as it pays the interest on its debts regularly, and we are in the process of reaching an agreement acceptable to all. [passage omitted]

[Jibril] It has been reported that some monetary and financial establishments abroad have requested the Moroccan Government to devalue the Moroccan dirham. What truth is there in this?

[Berrada] Between 1983 and 1985 there was a need to reduce the Moroccan dirham's exchange rate. However, the dirham's value has not changed since 1985 because there has been no need for such a measure. This is because exports have continued to grow rapidly, and so has the Moroccan economy. Besides, the inflation rate in Morocco is one of the lowest in the world—only 2.5 percent. And since the inflation rate is always linked to the question of devaluing the currency, Morocco has needed not to devalue it, especially as our hard currency reserve is growing yearly.

And I believe that all that a country like Morocco, which encourages investment and exports, needs is financial stability, because devaluing the dirham would mean increasing inflation, thus leading to a reduction in the volume of investment. Anyway, we are following what is happening in the world with great interest in order to maintain the dirham's value and our hard currency balance and also in order to ensure economic flexibility to suit our needs and our economy's development.

[Jibril] So there is no intention of devaluing the Moroccan dirham?

[Berrada] No, no. There is no justification for that.

[Jibril] While presenting the new budget plan for the next year you spoke of a deficit in the trade balance. What measures will be taken to resolve that shortcoming?

[Berrada] That shortcoming is usually resolved by external means.

[Jibril] Does that mean that you will turn to putting restrictions on imports?

[Berrada] There is no intention of putting restrictions on imports, because that conflicts with the liberal policy we are pursuing. For 6 years our policy has been to increase imports. [passage omitted]

[Jibril] Some people in Morocco say that complete liberalization of the economy would probably increase unemployment and reduce job opportunities because the private sector would turn to quick-profit projects that might not accommodate many workers. What is your comment?

[Berrada] That matter must be analyzed in line with a comprehensive outlook, because the developing states' economies wager on the domestic economy and domestic consumption. And I believe that the economy can no longer be built just to meet consumer needs. We have noted that the policy of liberalizing the economy and supporting investments has led to rapid growth in job opportunities. And I can firmly say that unemployment in Morocco has been considerably reduced. [passage omitted]

[Jibril] With regard to Arab investment, some Arab investors see that the structure of Moroccan administration is Frenchified—one of the negative factors discouraging Arab investors. What is your comment?

[Berrada] I believe that all administrative obstacles can be resolved and a solution can be found for them. The letter that the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, addressed to the prime minister regarding investments and the setting of a 2-month deadline for accepting or rejecting any investment project is in fact aimed at eliminating all obstacles facing investors. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Meets With Sultan of Oman

EA0612211689 Khartoun SUNA in English 1015 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] [word indistinct] 6 Dec (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, RCC, Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, met here yesterday with Sultan Qabus bin Sa'id and discussed with him promotion of bilateral co-operation in all spheres.

The OMANI NEWS AGENCY quoted state minister for foreign affairs Yusuf Alawi as saying that talks also covered the current development in Sudan, the efforts exerted by the Sudanese Government to achieve peace in the country and the outcome of the recent summit conference of U.S. and Soviet presidents.

Al-Bashir arrived here yesterday on a two-day official visit to Oman.

Al-Bashir Rejects Idea of Peace at Any Cost

EA0712193889 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Dec (SUNA)—Federalism will guarantee freedom of religion and expression and effective participation based on sovereign equality of citizenship, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, said today.

"We don't want a peace whatsoever and by a price whatsoever and we will defend our soils", Gen al-Bashir said. "Says abroad depict the conflict as religious or ethnic, as other quarters seek the prolongation of the war to exhaust Sudan and force it to kneel down for the

subordination and humiliation plans", said Gen al-Bashir without elaborating. [sentence as received]

Addressing a conference for the Sudanese diplomats here today, Gen al-Bashir said the Sudanese diplomacy is to shoulder the greatest responsibility of countering and refuting such says and allegations. "Sudan will not procrastinating in its original civilisation and will not permit the country's disunity", Gen al-Bashir affirmed. [sentence as received]

Khalifah on Carter Role in Nairobi Talks

EA0712210089 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Quotation marks as received]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 7 Dec (SUNA)—[Passage omitted] Col [Muhammad al-Amin] Khalifiah said the second round of talks with the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] is successful because we agreed on three basic issues out of six.

"We reach the half-way towards solving the southern question", the chairman of the Sudanese delegation to the Nairobi talks said, adding that Mr Jimmy Carter described the talks as a failure because they did not achieve what he want.

"Carter and the SPLA entered the negotiations with the aim of cancelling the Islamic Shari'ah laws, cancelling the military agreements with Libya and Egypt, and lifting the state of emergency, Col Khalifah said, asserting that Sudan refuses such pre-conditions".

'No Progress' in Government Talks With Garang

PM0812092789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Dec 89 p 4

[Kamal Hamid report: "Garang Movement Delegation Head Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Alternative to Negotiation and Dialogue To Achieve Peace"]

[Excerpts] Nairobi—No progress has been made in the negotiation being held in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, between the Sudanese Government delegation headed by Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah and the John Garang movement delegation headed by Dr Lam Akol. [passage omitted]

Garang movement delegation head Dr lam Akol has stated to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "it is too early for optimism or pessimism, as the negotiations are still at an early stage." But he expressed his hope that success would be achieved. He said: If I was not working for that, I would not have attended the negotiations. The federalism proposed by the government delegation is not clear, and so is the federal legislation of each province. [passage omitted]

In his statement Akol admitted to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the movement shot down the civilian plane—an incident which claimed 60 lives. But he refused to be held responsible. He said: It is the Sudanese Government which should be held responsible, because it ignored our warning to stop flights. However, we issued a statement apologizing to the victims' families.

Dr Akol, a prominent member of the Garang movement, declared that they cannot not see a winner or a loser in the war: The movement cannot resist the Army forever, nor will the Sudanese Army be able to destroy the movement. So there is no alternative to negotiation and dialogue to achieve peace. [passage omitted]

Negotiator Says Nairobi Talks 'Successful'

EA0712173789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and leader of Sudan's delegation to the recent Nairobi negotiations with Garang's movement, returned to Khartoum today.

He made a statement to our reporter in which he charactized the negotiations as successful, in that agreement was reached on fundamental points, rather than procedural questions. The two sides agreed that the resolutions of the national dialogue conference on peace should be a basic subject for discussion at the next dialogue. Col Khalifah declared that the second round of negotiations would take place soon. The Ethiopian Embassy will, however, be the connecting link between the two sides. He said the points of disagreement do not constitute an obstacle to the Government of Sudan. Yesterday Col Khalifah met in Nairobi with Arab and African ambassadors. He dealt with the problem of southern Sudan from independence up to 1983. He confirmed that the ongoing war waged by the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement is a conflict of (?regional) and international dimensions. He pointed out that the movement's claims that the Islamic legislation and the state of emergency are to blame for the conflict are flimsy excuses. He said the movement has been continuing its acts of aggression despite calls for peace made by the revolution.

The dean of the Arab diplomatic corps in Nairobi spoke, praising the efforts being made by the Sudan Government to achieve peace.

Two Students Killed in Clashes With Police

EA0712101789 London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Two Khartoum University students are reported to have been shot dead in clashes with police inside the university grounds yesterday. The police are reported to have used teargas when students, who have been demonstrating inside the grounds, set out to march to the center of the city [words indistinct] when the students

retaliated with stones. Six other students were said to have been injured and 15 arrested.

Reportage on Doctors' Strike, Official Reaction

Communists Blamed for Strike

PM0512151589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Nov 89 p 2

[Kamal Hamid report: "Sudanese Revolution Command Council Member Salah-al-Din Karrar Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Doctors' Strike Aimed at Causing Confusion Before Peace Talks"]

[Excerpts] Jeddah, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Colonel Salah-al-Din Karrar, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council in Sudan, has accused communist elements of planning the recent doctors' strike. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that the Sudanese Government has faced no significant organized opposition, except from a few uninfluential Sudanese communist elements trying to cause confusion and a series of disruptions and strikes over the week with a view to hampering and obstructing the peace negotiations to be held tomorrow in Nairobi between a Sudanese Government delegation and the rebel movement led by Colonel John Garang.

On the doctors' strike Colonel Karrar said that "the operation began with a strike announced by the doctors union's branch in the city of Wadi Madani in the central province. It was led by a known communist doctor. Some demands were submitted, like stopping what they termed arbitrary dismissal and improving deteriorating conditions in hospitals, although all the Sudanese people know that hospitals have never experienced in their recent history any of the attention and cleanliness they are experiencing now, as they are now supplied with the essentials. The union also announced that it would stage an open strike if any of its members were interrogated or detained. The government's first response was to arrest the union's representatives themselves, because we reject dealings of that kind, which have harmed Sudan greatly. All Sudanese, patients in particular, know that work is proceeding normally at Wad Madani Hospital, and there is no strike at all. And in Khartoum, whose doctors announced a strike which was in fact staged on a smaller scale, work is also proceeding normally. In fact the health minister visited all hospitals and found some of the doctors who were on strike working as volunteers, so he told them either to continue their strike with their colleagues or join their patriotic doctor colleagues who issued a statement and are now working day and night."

Colonel Salah Karrar announced that urgent trials and deterrent punishments will be applied against anyone who dares to strike or stop work for such political reasons.

He said that the punishments will include dismissal, withdrawal of professional licenses, evacuation of government houses, and confiscation of the new cars given by the state to the doctors to help them carry out their human duty. We have been forced to turn to such measures because on several occasions we monitored desperate attempts to create heroic epics and coordinate between unions and organizations with a view to launching a hostile move against the government. But all these attempts have failed, because the Salvation Revolution stands on a solid ground of popular support. [passage omitted]

On the statements distributed in Khartoum over the past 2 days signed by "Sudan's judges" and the Democratic Unionist Party in support of the doctors' strike, a responsible Sudanese source said that these leaflets and statements are issued by one of the dens of the dissolved Communist Party in the capital. And those activities are under careful and constant surveillance in order to arrest and punish the conspirators.

Furthermore, the Khartoum University student union elections were held the day before yesterday and resulted in the victory of the Islamic tendency (the National Islamic Front's student wing), which supports the policy of Lieutenant al-Bashir's government. The Islamic tendency students won all student union seats—40 of them.

Salih Denounces Strike

EA0112122789 Khartoum SUNA in French 0947 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Nov (SUNA)—The National Salvation Revolution Command Council deputy chairman, Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, has reiterated that the recapture of the southeastern town of Kurmuk by the Armed Forces was an important effort that coincides with the beginning of peace negotiations between the government and Garang's movement, and with Martyr's Day.

In an address he delivered last night after announcing the recapture of Kurmuk, Brig al-Zubayr said the strike declared by a group of doctors was aimed at stirring up protests and was part of a general plot linked to the rebels. Brig al- Zubayr Muhammad Salih said that the revolution would take legal action against anyone participating in acts inimical to the national interest. He paid tribute to the patriotic doctors who had not joined the strike. He said the doctors' partial strike was tantamount to high treason and it should be regarded as support for the rebel movement.

Meanwhile, Dr Shakir al-Sarraj, the minister of health, stated that the health service strike would have a bad effect on the profession.

Strike Called Communist Scheme

NC0212153689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1426 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Dec (MENA)—An informed Sudanese security source said that the documents and facts that emerged from the interrogation of certain

Sudanese communist detainees have revealed the "dimensions of the scheme" that the dissolved communist party had drawn up and its efforts to implement it through various factional groups. In a statement published in today's issue of the AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH newspaper, the source pointed out that the "communist scheme" focused on the Sudanese doctors staging a strike to break the so-called psychological barrier and fear felt by the doctors trade union and other trade unions.

It also focused on a strike by other trade unions in Khartoum and on opening discussions with the masses in order to mobilize them and spread the strikes to other districts. The source said that the scheme sought to exploit the circumstnaces of the Sudanese textile plant workers and to prod them to stage a peaceful demonstration with the basic aim of sounding out the Sudanese Government's reaction.

The source said that the goal behind the strikes was to exert pressure on the Sudanese Government to halt its purges so that the disbanded trade unions may regain legality. The source stressed that the Sudanese revolution is determined and capable with its people and armed forces of defeating all "remnants of plotting and treason." He said that the acts of plotters and those who deviated from the people's consensus will not dirvert the attention of the revolution from the reforms that it has begun in all fields.

Paper Cited on Doctors' Plot

EA0312081989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 2 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH devotes its main headline on the first page to expose the dimensions of the communist plot using front groups. The paper says: A well-informed security source said facts and documents gathered through investigations of some communist detainees had served to expose a criminal plot hatched by the dissolved Communist Party, which tried to implement it using various front groups.

The paper says the plot concentrated on getting the doctors to strike to break through the doctors' psychological barrier. The same applied to the other trade unions. The unions were to present purely political demands. These were to concentrate on strikes by trade unions in the capital and were to arouse discussion within the masses with the purpose of mobilizing them. Later the strikes were to spread to the regions.

The plot had other designs. The paper mentions the source as commenting on this, stressing that the revolution was determined and able, together with the people and its Armed Forces, to rout all the remnants of the conspirators and traitors. What the plotters and those who had turned against the unanimity of the people were doing would not divest the revolution from the comprehensive reforms on which it had embarked.

Doctors Return to Work 2 Dec

EA0312180189 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The minister of health held a meeting yesterday [2 December] with specialist doctors in the People's Hall in Omdurman. The specialists' meeting in the national capital was attended by about 300 specialists.

A spirit of amity, harmony, and wisdom prevailed at the meeting. The participants agreed on the following:

First: The doctors who had stopped work will continue their work forthwith from yesterday [2 December]. They confirmed that the patient is th?ir first concern and they will not abandon him in any circumstance.

As the nation wages a battle of dignity and sacrifice, they congratulate Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, leader of the National Salvation Revolution, and the People's Armed Forces and the Sudanese people in general on the victory of our forces and the restoration of dear Kurmuk and the routing of the rebels.

Third: They affirm the orientation of the government and people for peace and adoption of dialogue as a way of solving problems. They are thereby sending a cable to Sudan's delegation in Nairobi, and they wish it success. They confirm their stand with, and support for, its great effort. They call on all the sides to seize this opportunity to unite and achieve peace.

Fourth: The doctors will remain in constant dialogue with the minister of health within the framework of the medical family. The dialogue will be conducted by senior doctors, Professor Da'ud Mustafa and others, on issues concerning the profession and all the doctors.

It should be noted that all hospitals of the regions are continuing their work in a normal manner.

Doctor's Death Reports Refuted

EA0512133589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Staff Brigadier al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and chairman of the legal and administrative committee, has refuted reports on the torture and killing of one of the detained doctors. He said a group of doctors had visited him, and they were assured of the incorrectness of the reports. His Excellency added in a press statement that these rumors were meant to gain the sympathy of the Sudanese people, pointing out that the Sudanese people had reached a stage of consciousness enabling them to evaluate matters, and not follow conspirators.

The recent moves were meant to foil the peace steps, which had met with acceptance and success locally and internationally, because peace is the wish of the Sudanese people. His excellency stressed that those who had been dismissed from work in various facilities had

been dismissed for objective reasons. He said that whoever wanted to know the reasons for their dismissal could present a complaint to the authorities concerned in the RCC. He added that all the detentions which had been carried out had come because there were violations and moves against the homeland, which had been premediated for some time. He pointed out that the generosity of the revolution was inspired by the Sudanese citizens' generosity, but not weakness, as some would like to believe.

Doctors Plead Guilty in Strike

EA0412210189 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Dec (SUNA)—Four Sudanese doctors pleaded guilty in causing the strike of doctors, started last Nov 26.

Dr Mamoun Muhammad Husayn, Jafar Mvhammad Salih, Angof Gordon and Sayed Muammad Abdallah told a special court here today that they possessed three leaflets urging [words indistinct] doctors to [word indistinct].

The four Sudanese doctors, who are members in the dissolved Sudanese Doctors' Union, are accused of violating emergency regulation and waging war against the state.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Operation Lifeline

EA2912204089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued the following statement about the halting of Operation Lifeline.

The National Salvation Revolution government has, since its assumption of power on 30 June, 1989, confirmed its firm keenness and full commitment to providing full support for the continuation and success of operation lifeline. This keenness has been embodied in true cooperation and full coordination with those responsible for the project, which has led to achievement of the required results from it in saving the lives of millions of citizens. It has been the subject of commendation and appreciation on the part of the international community and the United Nations Organization.

At a time when the government is exerting intensive efforts to start the second stage of Operation Lifeline, the movement has violated the cease-fire and escalated its war operations, which has led to halting of flights in order to avoid the dangers resulting from the resumption of war operations on the part of the outlaws and in order to preserve the lives of those working on the project.

The violation of the cease-fire by the movement confirms once again its lack of credibility and seriousness regarding cooperation. It alone, therefore, bears full responsibility for the deteriorating situation which the citizens are experiencing in those places where Operation Lifeline has been suspended.

The government would like to declare anew to the international community and all friendly states that it still is committed to peaceful methods of providing relief to its citizens, who are harmed by the war, and that it is prepared to provide every possible help to achieve the expected objectives from Operation Lifeline.

Tunisia

Talks With Egypt Emphasize 'Excellent' Relations

LD0812102589 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Excerpts] At the meeting of the joint higher Tunisian-Egyptian committee, [Tunisian Prime Minister] Hammed Karoui emphasized the excellent bilateral relations that have experienced a strong push forward since the meeting between President Ben Ali and President Mubarak. He stressed the need to pursue a firm and composed move away from any rashness and to rely on realism and objectivity. He noted both Tunisia and Egypt are undergoing similar democratic experiences, and stressed Tunisia considers the democratic option a strategic one.

Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi stressed that following realism with joint action will make it possible to achieve the aspirations of the two peoples. He noted the two countries have common concerns and interests led by the democratic option, stressing Egypt is following the Tunisian experience with admiration.

A joint Tunisian-Egyptian working session was conducted at the Ministry of National Economy, chaired by National Economy Minister Moncef Belaid and Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mustafa Yusri. The session was devoted to the four agreements which will be signed today [8 December] on economic, industrial, trade cooperation, and investment security. [passage omitted]

Foreign Affairs Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh reviewed various Arab and African issues on 7 December at the ministry headquarters with his Egyptian counterpart, Dr Ahmad 'Abd al-Majid. In a statement after the talks, the Egyptian foreign minister stressed the two countries' identical views on all issues discussed. He also pointed out the two countries will intensify bilateral meetings and consultations to further coordinate stands. In this context, he noted the meeting due to take place soon in Paris at the level of foreign ministers within the framework of Arab-European dialogue.

Waldheim Arrives 4 Dec for Official 3-Day Visit

AU0412175089 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1732 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Today President Waldheim arrived in Tunisia for a 3-day official visit.

After his arrival, President Waldheim emphasized the importance of the north-south dialogue. Subsequently he conducted a first, short talk with President Ben Ali in Essaada Palace. Waldheim also wants to meet with Secretary General of the Arab League Klibi and PLO chief 'Arafat.

Waldheim is accompanied by Foreign Minister Mock and an economic delegation. [passage omitted]

Discusses Middle East

AU0612142389 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 6 Dec 89 p 1

[APA report: "Cooperation With Tunisia"]

[Text] Tunis—On 4 December, the first day of his state visit in Tunisia, President Kurt Waldheim had extensive talks with his host, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, on bilateral relations and the international situation, particularly in the Middle East.

Concerning bilateral relations, both sides noted the excellent state of these relations in the political and economic fields. In the economic field, a number of projects where mentioned in which Austrian companies are involved.

Waldheim explained the purpose of the contacts on Monday had been to ask the Tunisian president to use his authority to give Austrian business a chance.

The focal issues of the toast, given in the evening by President Ben Ali at a banquet in honor of Waldheim and the other Austrian guests, were a tribute to Austria's policy and role in Europe and the world, and to President Waldheim himself, as well as an overview on Tunisia's policy.

Western Sahara

Polisario's Sayed on Talks With Morocco

LD0512184389 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The situation in the Western Sahara on the eve of the new year: The Saharans intend to be optimistic and talk again about hopes of peace. Saharan Foreign Minister Bachir Mustafa Sayed told RFI [Radio France Internationale] yesterday the referendum could be held during 1990. Claire Arsenault-Leers in Algiers for RFI:

[Arsenault-Leers] In the view of Bachir Mustafa Sayed, the Polisario Front's foreign affairs official, everything is nearly ready for the referendum on the Western Sahara to be held in 1990. Only two elements are missing, but they are not the least important—the continuation of the direct dialogue begun in Marrakech last January with King Hassan II and the withdrawal of the Moroccan presence in the Western Sahara. Regarding this resumption of the dialogue, the Moroccans must be consistent, said the Saharan Foreign affairs official. As they have accepted the United Nation's consensus, the international resolution which calls upon the two parties to resume direct talks now should be implemented. As for us, adds Mustafa Sayed, as the Polisario we are ready to talk without preconditions, and what we want most is to leave behind this cycle of attack and response, which has created an appalling situation. Regarding Sunday's referendum in Morocco, Sayed perceived a change of tone, considered more conciliatory on the part of Driss Basri, Moroccan interior and information minister, but at the same time Sayed fears the referendum idea in the Sahara may have been dusted down only to bury it deeper. Regarding the coming visit by the Moroccan sovereign to France, scheduled for December, the Polisario is expecting a lot from this meeting with President Mitterrand, who, Sayed hopes, could persuade King Hassan II to resume the dialogue.

Ministerial Reshuffle Announced 4 Dec

LD0512120189 Algiers APS in English 1026 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] SDAR (L.T.) [Liberated Territories], 5/12/89 (APS)—The President of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) Mohamed Abdelaziz decided on Sunday a ministerial reshuffle and appointed Sid Ahmed Batal to the post of health minister and Salem Ould Salek as education and teaching minister, a communique from the Saharan Ministry of Information indicated on Monday.

Saudi Arabia

Hizballah Tied to Attempted Bombing of Airliner

PM0612160589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Dec 89 pp 1-2

[Muhammad al-Tunsi report: "New Information About Hizballah Network in Islamabad and Madrid"]

[Excerpts] London, Islamabad, Madrid, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Investigation sources in Islamabad and Madrid have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT exciting and serious information about the sabotage operations which Pakistan and Spain have witnessed over the past week. From preliminary investigations, the authorities in the two countries have discovered the involvement of cells of Hizballah, which is pro-Iranian, in the attempt to blow up a Saudi Airlines plane heading for Riyadh from Islamabad and the attempt to smuggle explosives into the two Spanish cities of Valencia and Madrid. Security sources close to the high federal investigation authority in Pakistan told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that one of the plane's passengers was arrested yesterday after the authorities' suspicions were aroused; his name is Hasan 'Abdallah. Preliminary investigations confirmed suspicions about his involvement in planting the explosives on board the plane. It was also discovered that he is an agent of a foreign organization, believed to be Hizballah.

The sources added that the federal investigation authority discovered that the planting of the bomb was planned by foreign (non-Pakistani) elements with the collusion of workers from one of Islamabad Airport's organs, namely some Pakistanis who are believed to have received bribes from the foreign elements who planned the operation, which the sources referred to as a Hizballah cell.

The sources confirmed that the Pakistani authorities yesterday arrested 15 officials, including female officials, of Islamabad Airport security in order to interrogate them.

Furthermore, a number of passport and immigration officials at the airport were also arrested and are under investigation to determine whether they were involved in the terrorist operation.

The sources revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that investigations uncovered another interesting point—5 of the passengers aboard the Saudi plane were carrying forged passports. [passage omitted]

In Madrid the Spanish security sources entrusted with interrogating the Hizballah cell members who were carrying explosives when they were arrested in Valencia and Madrid revealed that they had planned to carry out terrorist operations in various European states against U.S. and Arab interests.

The sources say that "the terrorists had sought to organize a gang to launch several Hizballah terrorist operations from Spain, and they had on them over 1,000 kg of explosives."

The sources also revealed that Hizballah's first target with this gang was France. The intention was to let the operations coincide with the Hizballah members' trials early next year. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Standing Committee Briefed on Unity; Statement

JN0712141489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The Standing Committee of the General People's Congress convened this morning in its ninth ordinary session under the chairmanship of brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to discuss issues on its agenda.

At the beginning of the meeting, the brother leader delivered a speech affirming the great importance of this session due to its link with the developments of Yemeni unity action. This unity action is proceeding toward realizing the will of the Yemeni masses and forms the most complete and progressive development of practical political action in light of the honest implementation of the principles of freedom and democracy within the framework of Yemeni unity.

The committee heard the brother secretary general's report which included a review and evaluation of all the positive and important results realized by unity work through fraternal, understanding, responsible, and enthusiastic unity dialogue between the leaderships of the two parts of the Yemeni homeland and in a national atmosphere abounding with hope and confidence.

The report clarified that these results were realized thanks to honest and responsible efforts by the two leaderships, with God's blessings and support, and after serious and honest belief in unity, and the realization by all of the importance of the new and developed change which unity work will move toward under the current circumstances and which our Yemeni people are experiencing in an atmosphere of cordiality, mutual confidence, and enthusiasm which prevailed during the unity meetings. [passage omitted]

On the level of developmental work, the report affirmed that the aspired goals can be realized by availing the vital needs and requirements of our people through exploiting all resources and developing a productive economy based on encouraging individual abilities where dependency on local resources increases to guarantee an ideal level of investment in the available resources. This will form the backbone of a national economy and ensure continuous growth through developing the productive

sectors, improving performance, and benefitting from the conscious effort that will inevitably become a practical guide to serve the required development in other sectors. This will also increase productivity, which is a necessary and effective condition for comprehensive economic development in our country. [passage omitted]

At the end of the session, a concluding statement was issued. Following is the text. [passage omitted]

The historic Aden meetings between 29 November and 1 December, 1989, in which all sectors of our people in both parts of our Yemeni homeland interacted, constituted a unionist transformation in which the facts of history triumphed, the masses' ambitions were manifested, and the goals of the revolution were interpreted, expressing the continuity of the popular masses' resources in their triumphant struggle, and their defiance and confrontation of the partition and polarization bequeathed by the imamate regime and colonialism. The Standing Committee highly appreciates the efforts of the two political leaderships in the two parts of the Yemen under the leadership of Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid. In their glorious meeting, they visualized all the struggle elements of our people to continue realizing the goals of the glorious September and October revolutions. They took great care to effect the developed unionist transformation represented by the two leaderships' approval of the unity state's draft constitution and referring it to the constitutional authorities in the two parts for approval, in accordance with each of their constitutional laws within a time period not exceeding 6 months. They authorized that a referendum on the draft constitution be organized and that a unified legislative authority be elected for the new state in accordance with the new constitution. [passage omitted]

While reviewing the results of the historic visit by brother leader secretary general, the Standing Committee supports the positive and historic results that were realized in the historic Aden meeting. It affirms that realizing Yemeni unity on true democratic bases manifesting the goals of the revolution—in philosophy and conduct—is the true guarantee for Yemen's strength and ability to perform a pioneering and positive role on the pan-Arab and international level. This forms the natural introduction to complete Arab unity since working to restore Yemeni unity, guided by the pure pan-Arab goals of Yemeni unity, is inherently linked to joint pan-Arab action of our Arab nation. [passage omitted]

PDRY Staff Chief Arrives, Remarks on Unity

JN0812082989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Staff Brigadier General brother Haytham Qasim Tahir, candidate member of the Political Bureau, deputy defense minister, and chief of staff in the southern part of the homeland, arrived in Sanaa this morning at the head of a military delegation on a visit to the northern part of the homeland. He was received at the airport by brother Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member; Muhammad al-'Ammari, director of the Unity Affairs Office; and Armed Forces officers.

In a statement to SABA', brother Brig Gen Haytham Qasim Tahir said: I am very pleased to visit the capital of the state of unity. We are very pleased to visit our brothers in the land of the one homeland within this unionist atmosphere which expresses the aspirations of the Yemeni people in the two parts on the great occasion of the signing of the 30 November Aden agreement between the two parts of the homeland. We in the Yemeni homeland in general consider this one of the great and noble objectives of our Yemeni people and of the glorious 26 September and the 14 October revolutions. Our Yemeni people have long struggled for the attainment of this great, cherished objective. He added: We feel that this agreement has really ended once and for all the state of fragmentation and division between the two parts of Yemen. We are pleased once again to visit our brothers in the capital of the state of unity to coordinate on topics related to the Armed Forces and other issues.

Asked how he views the Armed Forces within the state of unity, Brig Gen Haytham Qasim Tahir said: As an officer in the Armed Forces, I believe that the state of fragmentation and division has ended for good, and that the situation of the Armed Forces is one of the great and basic tasks of the state of unity. Regarding coordination and unification of the Armed Forces' tasks and efforts, he said these are subsequent unity tasks of a basic and important nature.

In reply to another question on the way the Armed Forces in the southern part of the homeland see this new accomplishment, he said: Your brothers in the southern part of the homeland, particularly in the Armed Forces and the Party, as well as the people, view this accomplishment as a great and important one that stems from this major unionist action. Our Yemeni people have succeeded in laying down the correct cornerstone for future struggle and in developing this cornerstone economically and socially, bolstering it at all levels.

Military Officials Hold Talks

JN0812084789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Within the framework of the unity meetings between the two parts of the homeland, a round of military talks was held at 1300 today at the Armed Forces Officers' Club in Sanaa, the capital of the state of unity. The meeting was chaired by brothers Staff Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member, and Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, Political Bureau candidate member, deputy defense minister, and chief of staff in the southern part of the homeland. The brother chief of staff and Standing Committee member began the meeting by welcoming the brother chief of staff and the members of

his military delegation from the southern part of the homeland. He noted that it was fortituous that this meeting of the Armed Forces' representatives in the two parts followed the historic meeting of the leaders of the two parts in Aden on 30 November. That meeting resulted in the realization of an important unity step signified by the approval of the constitution of the state of unity, and its submission to two legislative councils in the two parts of the homeland for ratification and popular referendum.

This meeting between the representatives of the Armed Forces in the two parts, he added, comes as an extension of the meeting of the presidents of the two parts who took unity action a step closer to a complete merger through which the dignity, might, and power of the one Yemeni people can be fulfilled. He declared that the sons of the Armed Forces are the vanguard in the defense of the 26 September and 14 October revolutions. They will be the pioneers and the honest strugglers who will achieve Yemeni unity—the noble objective of the two glorious revolutions.

For his part, Brother Brig Gen Haytham Qasim Tahir affirmed the importance of this meeting, which comes after the historic Aden meeting between the leaders of the two parts. He voiced his confidence that this meeting and subsequent ones will be permeated by a spirit of trust and honesty, and will enrich all unity steps. He said, we will walk side by side in great confidence and determination to realize our Yemeni people's cherished hope of complete unity for the sake of which they offered the dearest blood and sacrifices.

Britain's Waldegrave Arrives, Makes Statement

JN0512211589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] William Waldegrave, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, arrived in Ta'izz from Aden this evening on a 3-day visit to the northern part as part of his tour of several countries in the region.

In a statement to SABA following his arrival, he expressed his happiness to be on his first visit to our country, saying that the visit arises from the good relations between our country and Britain. He also said that during the visit, he would meet with a number of officials to discuss ways to promote bilateral relations in all areas.

The British official added that his visit is a good opportunity for him to acquaint himself with development in our country, expressing his gladness that his visits to the two parts of the Yemeni homeland coincide with the advanced steps being taken to reunify the two parts. He was received by the Ta'izz governor, the deputy director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the British ambassador in Sanaa.

Meets With President Salih

JN0712093889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office this evening William Waldegrave, British minister of state at the Foreign Office. The two sides discussed during the meeting several current international issues in light of the current developments in the world. The discussion also focused on the obstacles still hampering the international moves to establish peace in the world, particularly the problem of the Palestinian people who are suffering from the Zionist occupation.

During the meeting, the president leader affirmed the importance of supporting peaceful moves, and responding logically to the PLO's efforts and initiatives to establish peace in the region and enable the Palestinian people to establish their independent state on their national soil. The president leader emphasized the importance of the British role in the attempts to settle the Middle East crisis from the premise of its historical and moral responsibility to the Palestinian Arab people and the need to have them regain their usurped rights.

Touching on the current developments, the president leader voiced satisfaction with the current international detente, the elimination of hotbeds of tension, and the initiation of economic development in the interest of mankind.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed relations between our country and the United Kingdom in all fields and ways of promoting them to serve the two countries' mutual interests.

The meeting was attended by Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Comittee member, and the members of the delegation accompanying the British minister.

Confers With Prime Minister

JN0712212289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, this morning received William Waldegrave, minister of state at the British Foreign Office, who is visiting our country. A number of issues related to bilateral relations and international issues and developments were reviewed during the meeting. Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Khadr and UK Ambassador in Sanaa (Mark Marshal) attended the meeting.

Meets Development Minister

JN0712212889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, head of the Central Planning Authority, and Standing Committee member, met today with William Waldegrave, minister of state at the British Foreign Office, and his delegation. The two sides discussed economic and development relations between the two friendly countries and the means of bolstering and strengthening them. The two sides also reviewed some Yemeni development projects in which Britain is participating in the fields of veterinary services, agricultural research, forestry, English language teaching programs, scholarships, electricity, surveying, cartography, and some proposed development projects. Dr al-'Attar presented to William Waldegrave some of the proposed development projects. The British minister of state commended the progress and development in our country.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abd-al-Wali al-'Aqil, assistant under secretary of the Central Planning Authority; a representative from the Foreign Ministry; a number of [Planning] Authority officials; and British Ambassador in Sanaa (Mark Marshal).

Holds News Conference, Departs

JN0812060389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] William Waldegrave, minister of state at the British Foreign Office, left Sanaa this evening following a 3-day visit to our country during which he met with Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He also held talks with a number of brother officials on bilateral relations and issues of joint interest.

The British minister of state held a news conference shortly before departure in which he talked about his country's stance on developments in the Palestine question in light of the 2-year-old Palestinian popular intifadah in the occupied territories. He denounced the Israeli authorities' repression, oppression, and crimes against the Palestinians. He said the current situation in the occupied Arab territories is very bad, and if the oppression, torture, and denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination continue, the situation will get worse. He expressed conviction that the recent political steps represented by the PLO's response to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five points are considered an opportunity to open a serious Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. He indicated that this would be the first step toward convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East. In this regard, he stressed the Palestinian right to self-determination.

On the situation in Lebanon, Waldegrave expressed the British Government's appreciation for the tripartite Arab committee's efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis and the results of these efforts. He indicated that the solution to the current situation in Lebanon is to secure an international support for the president-elect in order to get Lebanon out of its ordeal. The British minister urged General Michel 'Awn to work to serve Lebanon's interest instead of his own narrow interests in order to help Lebanon out of its impasse and to maintain Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

In his news conference, William Waldegrave dealt with a number of current international issues and East-West relations in light of international detente and relaxation and the U.S.-Soviet contacts, the latest of which is the Malta meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The news conference was attended by UK Ambassador in Sanaa (Mark Marshal) and a number of British Embassy officials.

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

JN0512211889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Tesfaye Dinka, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [title as heard], today arrived in Sanaa on a visit which will last for several days, during which he will convey a message to brother leader President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

He was received by Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; the head of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Section; and (Sena Wolde Mariam), Ethiopian ambassador in Sanaa, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to SABA, the Ethiopian official explained that during the visit, he will hold talks with the deputy prime minister and foreign minister on bilateral relations and developments in the region. He also praised the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, and emphasized the importance of exchanging visits and consultations between officials for the benefit of the Yemeni and Ethiopian peoples.

Meets With Yemeni Counterpart

JN0612074289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; met yesterday with Tesfaye Dinka, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [title as heard], and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations in particular and current developments in the region in general.

The Ethiopian deputy prime minister and foreign minister arrived in Sanaa yesterday on a visit of several days to our country.

President Receives Ethiopian Minister

JN0612215089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office tonight Tesfaye Dinka, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, who conveyed to the brother president and secretary general a message from His Excellency Mengistu Haile Mariam, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The message deals with regional and international conditions and developments and issues of common concern, together with bilateral ties and means of bolstering them.

During the meeting, the Ethiopian official conveyed the political leadership's and the Ethiopian people's congratulations and blessing to our country on the historic unity achievement accomplished at the Aden meeting as a prelude to the merger of the two parts of the homeland. Attending the meeting were brothers Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Irayani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee memebr; (Sena Wolde Mariam), Ethiopian Ambassador in Sanaa; and members of the Ethiopian minister's delegation.

Minister Dinka Departs

JN0812080489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Tesfaye Dinka, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, left Sanaa today following a 3-day visit to our country during which he conveyed a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam. The message dealt with bilateral relations and the regional situation.

On hand to bid him farewell at the airport were brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Foreign Ministry officials; a representative from the Presidential Protocol Office; and (Jerma Wolde-Mariam), Ethiopian ambassador in Sanaa.

In a statement to SABA', the Ethiopian official said that he informed the brother president of the situation in northern Ethiopia, particularly with respect to the Eritrean question, in view of the president's prominent role in the efforts to solve this question. The Ethiopian minister indicated that he discussed with the brother deputy premier, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member the means of developing bilateral cooperation. Concluding, the minister praised the unity steps recently taken to unify the Yemeni homeland.

Minister Cables President on Military Developments

Satellite-carrier Rocket System Tested

JN0712132889 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1136 GMT 7 DEC 89

["Text" of cable by Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, to President Saddam Husayn; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Ye, assembly of Jinns and men! If it be ye can pass beyond the zones of the heavens and the earth, pass ye! Not without authority shall ye be able to pass. [Koranic verse]

My lord President, leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect you: On a previous occasion, when we provided you with one of the distinctive achievments of your men in the military industrialization, you wrote in your blessed hand these words: May God bless the efforts of the men whose will proved there is no longer anything impossible except what God Almighty does not want. They have become a model of hard work and an example of creativity for the Iraqis and Arabs.

As much as those words were a source for our pride, they were also a trust—that we measure up to your good opinion and keep up the good work. Any halt to the forward march is a retreat and regression.

My lord leader president: As your men in the military industrialization have pledged to you—that they will continue to give under the protection of your leadership and directives—they, after the achievement of victory and peace, used their creative capabilities and experience to manufacture long-range surface-to-surface missiles. Those were built and developed to defend the security and dignity of the nation. After this, they turned their faces toward space to support the scientific march for peaceful purposes, by using the available resources and at cheap cost.

With help from God Almighty, at 0830 [0530 GMT] on Tuesday, 7 Jumada al-Ula 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 5 December 1989, a new highly complex scientific and technological leap was achieved with the successful test launch of the satellite-carrier rocket system from the space research center at al-Anbar base. With the success of this test, the first phase of the space program we have been entrusted to carry out will have been implemented. The system is 25 meters long and consists of three phases. Altogether it weighs 48 tonnes. The total propulsion force of the first stage engines is 70 tonnes.

This great scientific achievement is the first product of the good efforts of groups of Iraqi scientists, engineers, and technicians who worked under and were supervised by Lieutenant General Dr 'Amir Hammudah al-Sa'di and who determined to accomplish the mission in record time and with the required accuracy. By this, the Iraqis prove yet again that possession of science and knowledge is not exclusive to certain countries and on which they can have a monopoly. Science is God's gift to man, attainable by those who have the will and belief. Their early ancestors were pioneers in laying the rules of science and knowledge from which the whole of humanity has benefited, and from whose resources humanity is still benefiting.

We pledge to you, my lord president, the leader of of the great victory, and to our great people and our Arab nation that we will continue to carry out the space program and endeavor to implement all our other programs in the other fields. May God protect you as symbol of great Iraq and backer of our people and glorious nation. Success comes from God, my lord and great leader.
[Signed] Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization

2,000-km Range Missiles Produced

JN0712133389 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Dec 89

["Text" of cable from Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, to President Saddam Husayn; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. When thou threwest a handful of dust, it was not thy act, but God's. [Koranic verse]

My Lord, the president leader, may God preserve you. Your men in the military industry made a promise to you, and they have fulfilled their promise. With your support and under your guidance they have been the striking arm of the Armed Forces—the Armed Forces' long arm, protective shield, and alert eyes.

My Lord, the president leader, in continuation of this course, your men the scientists in the military industry, headed and supervised by Lieutenant General Dr 'Amir al-Sa'di, have come through the most complicated and important stages in the development and production of two different surface-to-surface missile systems, each of which has a 2,000-km range. They did it with their own efforts and without any assistance from non-Iraqis. With this, the deterrence capabilities of Iraq and the Arab nation have been enhanced to enable great Iraq to enjoy peace and prosperity following the manifest victory. Let the covetous Arab nation's enemies learn a lesson from this.

We pledge to you, the leader of victory and peace, to be loyal soldiers and to pursue our offering under the canopy of your leadership and directives. May God preserve and guide your steps as a symbol of great Iraq and as an asset of our glorious nation. God grants success.
[Signed] Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization

Saddam Comments on Satellite Rocket Launch Test

JN0712150489 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has praised the solid will of the honest men of military industrialization—the will that stems from a deep belief in God, the people, and the homeland. This came in his excellency's comment on the cable from the minister of industry and military industrialization in which he conveyed the good news of the successful test launch of the satellite-carrier rocket. Following is the text of the leader president's comment:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O faithful men of military industrialization: Blessed be your solid will stemming from a deep belief in God, the people, the homeland, and the right to choose a free path to please our people and nation, whose prominent achievements will constitute a base for further progress, and to safeguard their rights with an enlightened mind.

God is great.
[Signed] Saddam Husayn, 7 December 1989.

Baghdad TV Shows Film of Latest Military Technology

Broadcasts Rocket Launch Test

JN0712183889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA)—Baghdad television tonight showed a film on the launching of the satellite-carrier rocket system from the space research center at al-Anbar base. The film shows the moments that preceded the launching of the system. The three-stage rocket is 25 meters long and weighs 48 tonnes with first-stage 70-ton-propulsion engines.

Millions of Iraqis saw the exciting moment when the rocket system was launched into outer space amid shouts of joy and admiration for the capability of the Iraqi scientists who made this great achievement.

Iraq announced today it had developed two different surface-to-surface missile systems, each of which has a 2,000 km range.

Shows 'Adnan-1 Airplane

JN0712184489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA)—Baghdad television tonight televised a film of a test of the early warning plane, 'Adnan-1. The film, lasting several minutes, shows the plane taking off from an airport. The film also shows early warning equipment operating in the air at very high altitudes.

Assembly Asks Parliamentary Union To Leave Syria

JN0812085489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi National Assembly has asked the Damascus-based General Secretariat of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] to move APU headquarters to any other Arab state because of the non-national stands of the Syrian regime and its conspiratorial role against the Arab nation and its decisive issues. The head of the Iraqi delegation, who attended the recent Damascus sessions of the second APU meeting on population and development, called on the Arab countries to denounce the Syrian regime's dishonorable behavior vis-a-vis the nation's decisive issues and its continuous involvement in conspiracies against the Arab nation's issues, unrestrained by conscience. [passage omitted]

'Aziz, Socialist Country Envoys Meet Again

JN0812081589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, had a second meeting this evening with heads of the Iraqi diplomatic missions accredited to the socialist bloc states, Cuba, PRC, and Vietnam. They reviewed developments in the socialist countries of Eastern Europe and their repercussions on the international and Arab scenes in light of leader President Saddam Husayn's directives during his meeting yesterday with the ambassadors.

The meeting was attended by the two under secretaries at the Foreign Ministry and the heads of ministry departments.

Minister Returns From OPEC Meeting, Comments

JN0112065289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2140 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim returned to Baghdad tonight after leading the Iraqi delegation to OPEC's 86th ministerial conference, which concluded 28 November in Vienna.

In a statement to INA, the minister said the results of the conference were positive. He said it was agreed to raise the OPEC output ceiling to 22 million barrels per day [bpd] for the first half of 1990 and to consider $18 per barrel a minimum price for OPEC oil.

The oil minister explained Iraq's share within the new ceiling has risen from its current quota of 2.926 million bpd to 3.140 bpd. He indicated the quotas of Iraq and Iran have been kept equal within the overall output ceiling.

Concluding his statement, the minister said most experts in oil affairs expect the new OPEC agreement to provide solid ground for stability of the oil market and to improve prices. He referred to the effective role played by Iraq to reach this agreement, which will maintain the interests of OPEC member states.

Officials Respond to Egypt's Reply to Baker

Shamir, Arens Review Response

TA0712115389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Now it is final: Arens will go to Washington. Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens together perused the Egyptian document conveyed by U.S. Ambassador William Brown this morning. Both decided that the Egyptian response is indeed positive and satisfactory; consequently, it is possible to make progress toward a meeting of the foreign ministers in Washington early next month.

So Arens is leaving; the Alignment is pleased; and all that remains now is to find out what the constraints ministers say. Let us now hear a report by our political correspondent Arye Golan:

The bottom line—and, actually, the first one—is that it is possible to advance. This was the conclusion reached by Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens following their consultation this morning. Egypt's response to Baker's five points stipulates explicitly that Egypt accepts the five points in principle. This comes after the United States made it clear that it will not accept Egypt's role as a mere mailman, delivering messages to and from the PLO. Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid promised Washington that in the future as well, Egypt will not be satisfied with the limited role of courier. Furthermore, in its answer to the United States, Egypt notes that it received a certain text from the PLO. The Americans have told us that the PLO text has not been relayed to the United States along with the Egyptian response. This, in any case, was stated during contacts with the United States over the past 24 hours.

The United States also informed Israel that the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and the preceding tripartite meeting between Foreign Ministers Baker, Arens, and 'Abd-al-Majid are not independent moves, but are aimed at achieving elections in the territories.

In short, in its reply to Baker, Egypt said that it is prepared to go ahead with the contacts on the basis of the five points. Let us point out that the version to which the United States referred is the five points as worked out on 1 November, not the initial version of 6 October that complies with the PLO's demands. Nor did Egypt present conditions for further progress. All this led Shamir and Arens to realize that it is indeed possible to move forward, never forgetting the assumptions Israel appended at the time to its positive response to the Baker initiative.

Although the United States pointed out that it is not happy with everything in the Egyptian response, for Washington the most important thing is that Egypt accepted the five points and that it will not be only a courier. These are also the positive aspects Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens found in that reply during their review of it this morning.

[In a similar report at 1100 GMT, Tel Aviv IDF Radio's political correspondent Natan Gutman adds from Jerusalem that "after the consultation this morning between Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens there is still no official response, but political circles in Jerusalem said that the two are inclined to state that progress can be made." Gutman adds that "now Israel and the United States will move on to a discussion of guarantees. Let us point out that at this stage no Egyptian-PLO guarantees have been requested, but these may still come."]

Arens Notes 'Slow Process'

TA0712183689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by political correspondent Yig'al Goren in Tel Aviv—live in studio]

[Text] [Goren] Good evening, Minister Moshe Arens in our Tel Aviv studio.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Goren] Minister Arens, were you one of those who were surprised by Egypt's affirmative reply?

[Arens] It is hard to say I was surprised. I know the Egyptians have been deliberating for a month now—ever since we issued our affirmative reply. We know that heavy pressures were exerted on them, particularly by the PLO, which wanted to take Egypt's place and which has been seeking ways to introduce itself into this process. The affirmative answer the United Stated eventually received was consistent with what we knew. It does not deviate from the position I heard from both President Mubarak and 'Abd-al-Majid in our meeting in New York 2 months ago.

[Goren] Minister Arens, what is it that you are supposed to solve in the foreign ministers meeting scheduled for next month?

[Arens] No date for this encounter has been set so far. There are several issues that will probably be discussed even before the encounter. The issue of guarantees must be discussed, for instance. But, as you noted earlier, the solution of the main issues on the agenda will not be difficult. These are the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the agenda.

[Goren] To end the interview, Minister Arens, now that we seem to have jumped another hurdle on the difficult path of the political process, do you believe we have come nearer the Cairo talks, or perhaps closer to the solution of the Middle East conflict?

[Arens] I think we are drawing close to the implementation of the Israeli Government's political initiative, the Yitzhaq Shamir initiative. We are doing so by sure, albeit slow, steps. We, the Middle East inhabitants, know that the Middle East peace process is a slow process. The blame for this lies with the other party, not with us.

[Goren] I thank you very much, Mr Foreign Minister. Good night.

Rabin on 'Positive Development'

TA0712174589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Views and positions in anticipation of the prolonged and tedious process of negotiation can already be heard here. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he believes the next phase in the political process will be a meeting between the foreign ministers of Israel, the United States, and Egypt to determine the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Minister Rabin added that he regards the development that took place—namely, the very acceptance of such negotiations—as highly significant and likewise views Egypt's involvement as a go-between acceptable to all the components of the Palestinian people as important. He said all this during a seminar on the occasion of the 2d anniversary of the intifadah at Tel Aviv University. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports from there:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] There can be no political process without a Palestinian partner, said Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who noted Egypt's importance to the political process, which he believes even surpasses that of the United States. The next stage, he said, will be a meeting between the foreign ministers of the United States, Israel, and Egypt to determine the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

[Rabin] I regard the development that took place—even if it happened thanks to U.S. prodding—as a return to the partnership between the United States, Egypt, and Israel in leading the political process. That is a positive development of the first order. These three countries are the cosigners of the Camp David accords, those framework agreements for peace in the Middle East. The Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty constitutes the mainstay for the shape of the comprehensive peace, whose next stage will involve an encounter with the Palestinians in the territories. Later, when we reach negotiations on the permanent solution, it will never enter our minds that this stage could be held without, at least, Israel, the Palestinians—the Palestinian representation that will be elected as its central core—and Jordan.

[Menashe] I do not think, said Rabin, that we ought to examine every Palestinian delegate, although the PLO is ruled out as partner for the negotiations. Will East Jerusalem's residents be included in this? Rabin's response: This is not topical at the moment. Let us cross that bridge when we come to it. [end recording]

Aide Urges 'Extreme Caution'

TA0712180689 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Interview with Avi Pazner, prime minister's media adviser, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor—recorded in studio with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] If you were asked about Israel's position on the Egyptian response to the Baker plan, what would you say?

[Pazner] I would say that after our response and following Egypt's answer, it is now possible to proceed to the next stage in the process—namely, a meeting between the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt, and the United States, possibly as early as next month—to prepare for the meeting between an Israeli delegation and a group of Palestinians that will discuss the details of our election plan, which is actually our initiative. In an effort to promote that initiative, we are now progressing toward the next phase, which is the meeting between the foreign ministers. Yet even before that meeting, I think more preparatory work and additional talks are necessary because the Egyptian response also includes all sorts of things and assumptions of which we do not approve, and which we will have to discuss with the United States.

The important thing is that we can make progress in the process, pursue the Israeli peace initiative and, even if it is not so simple and even if it requires talks or deliberations or meetings, we can still move forward.

[Ganor] Mr Pazner, as one who perused the Egyptian response, do you not think that Jerusalem should be pleased with the fact that the PLO's role has been ignored?

[Pazner] Certainly. Let me tell you that the PLO was not mentioned in that document at all. That is why I told you already at the start of this interview that this is an Egyptian response which the Americans take as such, and which we take as an Egyptian answer, certainly not a PLO answer. The PLO is not mentioned there, and I think that our position regarding the PLO is very clear to everyone. I think that this is why the PLO was not mentioned at all. That in itself is positive.

Now we must be careful, as we march forward, to ensure against the creation of any sort of loophole through which they might try to insert the PLO and force us to accept that. This is why we must exercise extreme caution. In each step we take, we must very carefully examine every aspect to make sure that it envelopes no such loophole. Only after that is done will we be at liberty to proceed.

Moda'i Feels 'Very Unhappy'

TA0712164989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Telephone interview with Economics and Planning Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i in Paris by Dan Shilon and Goni Mardor—live]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, who is now in Paris, is on the line. Good evening, sir.

[Moda'i] A very good evening.

[Shilon] Will you add your voice to Israel's favorable reaction to the Egyptian reply? Will you say to our foreign minister: May your trip to the foreign ministers' meeting be safe and fruitful?

[Moda'i] I would prefer to open with something else: I would like to wish the Israeli basketball team a win in tonight's game.

[Shilon] Is this more important than....

[Moda'i, interrupting] It is important, because it is so much more purposeful. All those trips and meetings, as I understand them from where I am, are not a concrete fact at this point. In fact, we were the ones who launched this entire process. It was the government's initiative, which stated that the moment an Arab element—and I stress, any Arab element whatsoever—was found ready to embrace the Israeli Government's plan, Israel would view this as an opening for negotiations. Although they have not accepted the Israeli Government's plan, they did accept Baker's plan, which the Israeli Government had endorsed.

[Mardor] Can we understand your remarks to say that, this time, Minister Arens' departure will have the constraints ministers' blessing?

[Moda'i] I am not giving anyone any blessing on behalf of the constraints ministers, nor do I think this trip requires any kind of a blessing, aside from wishes of success, perhaps.

[Mardor] That would be a blessing.

[Moda'i] It definitely does not need any blessing. In the Jewish tradition, one only blesses a finished product.

[Shilon] Still, let us return to the starting point. You have compared the situation to the Maccabi basketball team, saying that basketball is more purposeful. If I may be allowed to serve as an interpreter, you have perhaps underestimated the significance of the Washington encounter.

[Moda'i] I certainly did. If Israel's affirmative replies were qualified by conditions, which are for some reason called assumptions, and if the Egyptian reply, which may be a purely Egyptian reply, but whose conditions—theirs or another Arab element's—are still expected to be posed, how then can I view the talks between the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers and the secretary of state as anything but preliminary exchanges?

[Shilon] You do know, however, that things are not as innocuous as they appear to be? Egypt continuously talks with the PLO; the United States also speaks with the PLO; and, by the time the process is over, Israel may also be asked to hold direct talks with the PLO, just as you have always feared.

[Moda'i] Well, I hope the talks with the Egyptian foreign minister, which are not the first of their kind, do not prove to be an opening for talks with the PLO. I see no correlation between the two things.

[Mardor] Not even indirect talks?

[Moda'i] I would like to stress that if this is the beginning of talks with the PLO, then I have no blessing to impart. I am positive, however, that the situation is nothing like this.

[Mardor] Can you likewise be positive that it would not lead to an indirect dialogue with the PLO?

[Moda'i] I believe there is a continuing indirect dialogue with the PLO. This is why I have not happily welcomed any move we have made since the Israeli Government's plan was endorsed, which happened long before the Baker plan and before President Mubarak's plan. I judge the moves as they appear to be, rather than by the nuances relayed by the various remarks on the situation; I feel, therefore, very unhappy about the whole issue. The state of things is perfectly clear to me.

[Shilon] Will you then ask that the Likud institutions be convened to guide the foreign minister on his mission? If you do not, you may have to give your blessing to a fait accompli, as you have always feared.

[Moda'i] On the first point, the answer is yes. The Likud institutions—namely, the Likud Central Committee—decided on a certain path, which was thereafter dubbed the Central Committee resolution. There is no doubt at present that this institution will have to make a more definite decision on our future path.

[Shilon] Before the Washington encounter?

[Moda'i] I have been out of Israel for 10 days now. My current hosts—I am at the moment in the offices of the French Socioeconomic Council's president, a very luxurious place, a genuine palace—have not mentioned anything about Egypt's replies or Israel's reservations. We believe we are the focus of the world. We may be that for ourselves, but not for Europe, the United States....

[Mardor, interrupting] But you will eventually return home.

[Moda'i] I will do that. Now, I must say that despite the general importance of this issue, I do not think the present stage contains any substance whatsoever. In my

opinion, there were doubts until yesterday whether the process had any future at all.

[Shilon] Mr Moda'i, although you are in Paris, your phone lines must be constantly busy with talks to and from Israel. You must be aware of the reality and the moods in Israel. Will you request that the Likud institutions be convened before the Washington convention?

[Moda'i] With the exception of the word before... [changes thought] By the way, I have no reservations about convening them before the trip to Washington, but then I have no idea when the Washington encounter is scheduled to take place. A Likud convention may be technically unfeasible before the trip. What I want is that a position be determined. I am in favor of convening the Likud Central Committee in order to discuss and determine a political position.

The second question was whether this is to take place before the foreign minister's departure. Here, too, I would like to explain: If the prime minister asks—and it lies within his authority to do so—that the Central Committee meeting be postponed until after the foreign minister returns, I will not be difficult about that.

[Shilon] That would not happen to be because of the constraints ministers' weakness?

[Moda'i] I do not know, I am aware of no weakness. [passage omitted]

Sharon Says PLO Gave Reply

TA0712185189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Arens' participation in the foreign ministers meeting in the United States will be a violation of a Cabinet resolution. This was said tonight by Minister Ari'el Sharon. The PLO is the one who gave Baker an affirmative reply; therefore, the condition Israel had posed with regard to the acceptance of the U.S. plan has not been met.

Talking with our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran, Minister Sharon further said that the constraints ministers are united in their opposition to the Israeli position, and that the attempts to drive a wedge between them will not bear any success.

Levi Takes 'Grave View'

TA0812063789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi says that a grave view should be taken of the statement issued by Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens on the positive character of the Egyptian response to Baker's plan. Levi even accused the prime minister and the foreign minister of concealing information from their colleagues in the Likud leadership.

Interviewed on our morning newsreel, Minister Levi lashed out at Shamir and Arens, saying that acceptance of the Egyptian response totally contravenes the Inner Cabinet resolutions and the concept of saying no to the PLO, because both the Egyptians and the Americans concede that the PLO is behind the Egyptian reply.

Minister Levi even cautioned that recent developments have affected the Likud's unity and might lead to serious crises.

Figures in Territories React

TA0812062489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The second anniversary of the intifadah will be marked tomorrow, and a general curfew is already in effect in the Gaza Strip. At the same time, the local leadership is getting ready to react to Egypt's response to Baker. Dr Mahmud 'Azar, one of the leaders of HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip, is prepared to take part in the negotiations, and the same holds true of other figures, such as Sari Nusaybah. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports on the moods prevailing in the territories:

The residents of the territories were somewhat relieved by the progress made in the peace process, as reflected in the positive Egyptian response to the U.S. Administration.

As'ad al-Saftawi, one of the most prominent figures in the Gaza Strip, who was mentioned by Egypt in the list of Palestinians who would attend the talks with Israel, said last night that the Egyptian reply represents a positive step toward advancing the peace process in the region. He pointed out that, in his opinion, the Egyptian reply had been coordinated with the PLO. Incidentally, a few weeks ago Egypt put off an invitation to Al-Saftawi to come to Cairo for a series of meetings. The invitation was delayed because of the stalemate in the peace process, but Egypt likely will renew the invitation now.

Other figures in the territories, whose names were not mentioned in the list of candidates, expressed the hope, each in his own way, that Egypt's positive response would lead to a dialogue between the two sides—a dialogue that will ultimately lead to a permanent solution.

Dr Mahmud 'Azar, who is identified with HAMAS in the Gaza Strip, said last night that if his loyal friends—doctors, engineers, and lawyers—approached him, he would not refuse to be part of the Palestinian delegation to the talks in Cairo. According to him, the peace process began with the outbreak of the intifadah. The latest moves by Israel, the United States, Egypt, and the PLO are the achievements of the intifadah, and they are advancing the peace process. Dr 'Azar stressed that the purpose of the intifadah has not been to lead to the suicide of the Palestinian people or to inflict death and pain on Israel. He said the main goal has been to secure the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Dr Sari Nusaybah of East Jerusalem also said that the main purpose of the intifadah has been to attain a just peace in the region. In his opinion, as the peace process advances in a positive direction the intifadah will gradually die down, but if the process stops, the intifadah will resume because it is an anguished call for just peace. He stressed that the last 2 years have been the labor pains of the Palestinian state—a state which is becoming a fait accompli as days go by; not a state that would jeopardize Israel's security, but one that would exist alongside it in peace.

Commenting on Egypt's positive response, Dr Nusaybah noted that this move proves that progress has been made toward a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, although there are still problems requiring a solution. To the question whether he would be prepared to take part in such a dialogue, Dr Nusaybah said this was a tough question and added that he personally believes that the Palestinian figures mentioned in Egypt's list can represent him honorably.

Arens Tells Baker of 'Favorable View' of Reply

TA0712211489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] In today's telephone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said that, in principle, Israel has a favorable view of Egypt's reply as received in Jerusalem.

Our correspondent in Washington 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that, in the conversation, Minister Arens informed Secretary Baker of the Forum of Four meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning, in which Egypt's reply to the Baker plan will be discussed.

Forum of Four Endorses Response to Baker Plan

TA0812073889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The meeting of the forum of four—Shamir, Rabin, Peres, and Arens—ended a few minutes ago in Jerusalem. The ministers endorsed [ishru] the Egyptian response to the Baker plan and approved the foreign minister's expected trip to Washington for the tripartite meeting of foreign ministers. It was also decided to send a preparatory team to Washington in the next few days.

Justice Minister Says PLO 'Incapable' of Peace

TA0712183089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Justice Minister Dan Meridor said, during a discussion of the 2d anniversary of the intifadah, that the PLO is pursuing terrorism and is incapable of reaching an agreement.

[Begin recording] The fact that the PLO pursues acts of terrorism is nothing new to us. Furthermore, it does so not only in the form of the Black Panther gang. The squad that was captured only yesterday or the day before as it penetrated Israel from Egypt belongs not only to the PLO, but to 'Arafat's PLO. It had clear instructions to come here and carry out an act of mass killing, possibly in the central part of the country, using a large quantity of weapons. We see this, but we would rather not see it, hoping that they really are not like that. The United States sees as much itself, too. Yet it was promised outright that the PLO has ceased terrorism. But here we are talking about terrorism not in Nabulus, but coming from across the border, from Egypt, with the aim of killing Jews in Israel!

Dozens of squads that have been captured by the security forces and the army during the past 2 years have belonged to the 'Arafat faction of the PLO. [end recording]

The PLO represents the problem of the Arabs since 1948, the 40-year refugee camps. If a peace move is made and there is an agreement, who will give a hoot about 'Arafat, asked Minister Meridor? The PLO must therefore make an effort to torpedo the process.

Hungarian Trade Minister Beck Conducts Visit

Received by Shamir 7 Dec

TA0712122789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister received Hungarian Trade Minister Tamas Beck in his office this morning. During the meeting, the prime minister was told that Hungary is very happy with its cooperation with Israel and is hoping that trade relations will strengthen. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that Mr Shamir thanked the guest for his remarks and added that he is looking forward to meeting his counterpart, Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth, soon. [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 7 December in a page 2 report by David Makovsky and Menahem Shalev adds: "Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn is expected to lay the groundwork for the visit when he comes to Israel early next month, foreign ministry officials said."] The prime minister pointed out that he has learned that the atmosphere is good and that there is a desire to increase cooperation between businessmen in both countries.

Signs Development Agreement

TA0712170689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Hungary and Israel have signed an agreement to promote trade research and development ties. Israel was represented by Minister Sharon, while Hungary's delegate was his counterpart Tamas Beck. The visiting minister disclosed that next month a textile thread plant established by Israeli businessman Sha'ul Eisenberg will

be inaugurated just outside Budapest. An Israeli-run poultry farm also operates in Hungary. Israeli-Hungarian trade is expected to reach the volume of $100 million in 18 months. This is reported by our correspondent Menahem Friedman.

Discusses Hungary's Future

TA0712195589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Report by Menahem Friedman]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Hungary's interest in joint ventures with Israeli companies is increasing sharply. As a natural result of this, a trade agreement between the two countries was signed here tonight by Hungarian Trade Minister Tamas Beck and his Israeli counterpart, Ari'el Sharon.

Minister Beck said that recent events in the East Bloc countries will bring Hungary to the status of a democratic country based on a coalition government and a market economy. The transition is not simple, but it is already taking place.

[Begin Beck recording—in English] I think Hungary will be, and I am sure that it will be, a pluralistic democratic country. We will have a coalition government, and, at the same time, we want to build up a market economy. This is a unique thing in history, because to do these both at the same—there was never an example in the history. Because if Spain and Portugal went over from the dictatorship to a democratic system, they had a market economy. But we have to build it at the same time with the democratic system. [end recording]

Minister Sharon, too, places his hopes on the changes in Hungary and in its neighbors.

[Begin Sharon recording] I am positive the developments in East Europe will allow both Israel and East European countries to develop increasingly extensive trade ties and industrial cooperation. I believe we are on the brink of a new era in this respect. [end recording]

The trade between the two countries stood at $40 million in the last year, and the two ministers believe it will reach $100 million within the next 18 months. This calculation includes some 50,000 Israeli tourists who visited Hungary this year. One must not expect a similar number of Hungarian tourists in Israel, however, because they do not have the necessary funds.

Shomron Urges New Legislation To Fight Uprising

TA0712120489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The chief of staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, said the army is now concentrating on stopping the hard-core activists of the intifadah in their efforts to further reduce the level of violence. Lt Gen Shomron said new legislation and changes in orders on opening fire have helped in the effort to get violent and hard-core activists caught or kept on the run. He called for further legal steps to be introduced. More from Alan Ben-'Ami:

Speaking this morning at a Tel Aviv University seminar on the intifadah, as it approaches its 2d anniversary, General Shomron said that although the army has succeeded in stamping out mass demonstrations and in reducing the level of violence, the intifadah is not at an end. A hard core of activists continues to try and push the intifadah along, he said, using violence against Palestinians as well as Jews, and with some of the activists resorting to firearms. There are arms in the territories and individuals who have, or will, use them, he said.

However, added Lt Gen Shomron, as long as the intifadah's leaders continue to be concerned about securing a sympathetic image in the press and in international public opinion, he does not anticipate a major shift to the use of firearms. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] for its part is concentrating on catching the hard-core and violent activists, and he says, partly because of changes in legal measures and in the orders on opening fire, the army is succeeding to capture them or to keep them on the run.

The chief of staff expressed his confidence that the level of violence can be brought down further, but he said it was an illusion to think that the intifadah could be crushed through force, particularly with the constraints under which the IDF must, and should, operate.

At the same time he called for stiffer legal measures which he believes could help achieve a further reduction of violence. Asking how can we deal with youngsters and children who throw stones, he said that legislation which will allow parents to be fined for such activities by their children could be an effective answer. Lt Gen Shomron also called for heavy punishments to be introduced for intifadah activists who had been jailed for particularly serious offenses and who resumed such activities after being released.

Defense Sources Detail Al-Husayni Activities

TA0612143889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni believes that he was forbidden to visit the territories because of pressure brought to bear on the Shin Bet by Israeli political elements. Al-Husayni maintains that he dealt in politics only in the Jerusalem area.

Sources in the defense establishment have told our correspondent Moti Amir that the confining orders issued against Al-Husayni were the outcome of an extensive review given to the commanders of the Central and Southern Commands about his political activity. The sources noted that this activity recently spread to the territories as well, including to associations and bodies in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Al-Husayni's influence was exerted both directly and through go-betweens. Among

these operations were initiating activities against the Israel Defense Forces and the Civil Administration, including the tax revolt in Bayt Sahur and the boycott on the magnetic exit permits in the Gaza Strip. The sources emphasized that Faysal al-Husayni mediated between various supporters and activists of various factions of the PLO and the Muslim organizations. In the past few months, he attempted to activate a counseling and legislative system in Judaea and Samaria in a bid to offer a substitute for the Israeli legal system. He also participated in settling conflicts in the territories and assisted civil uprising activities.

Al-Husayni Interviewed on Confinement Order

TA0712164189 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Dec 89 p 3

[Interview with Faysal 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Husayni, head of Arab Studies Society, by Da'ud Kuttab in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] AL-QUDS: What, in your opinion, is the reason for issuing the order forbidding you from traveling outside Jerusalem at this particular time?

Al-Husayni: This is not the first Israeli order of this kind issued against me. Similar orders have been issued over the past 5 years. Moreover, four administrative detention orders have been issued against me, all of which were without justification or explanation. Now the authorities have resorted to practicing what they used to practice against me over the past years. If anything, this proves that the Israeli authorities are in a state of confusion and are trying to justify to themselves the fact that they are adopting a new measure against Palestinians.

AL-QUDS: Does this not prove that there is a clear contradiction between what Israel is proposing—that it seeks to hold free elections—while at the same time it is confining your movement?

Al-Husayni: Not just what happened to me is proof of the contradiction but also everything that Israel is trying to do with respect to the issue of the peace process. For example, Israel says that it wants peace, but it refuses to talk to the enemy with whom it is seeking peace. This is proof of confusion and lack of seriousness. Shamir has clearly explained that what he seeks is to gain time.

AL-QUDS: What are your expectations from the U.S. Government, which is trying to promote the concept of free elections?

Al-Husayni: Undoubtedly we expect a clear and precise U.S. response. We will be able to determine a position after we hear the U.S. response.

AL-QUDS: What about the Israeli left-wing circles or the peace groups? What is expected of them?

Al-Husayni: These Israelis should know that the time when they were content with pleasing their conscience has ended. They must move seriously to defend their principles and the image that they have set for themselves. These Israelis must move with resolve, otherwise their future will be futile.

AL-QUDS: Will this decision affect the PLO's response to Baker's plan?

Al-Husayni: The PLO has said its word regarding this plan. Now we are all awaiting the U.S. response.

Kuwaiti Paper Previews Interview With Al-Hirawi

JN0712175889 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
6 Dec pp 1, 24

[Muhammad Jasim al-Saqir dispatch from Ablah barracks in al-Biqa']

[Text] In an interview with AL-QABAS chief editor to be published soon, Lebanon's President Ilyas al-Hirawi asserts that he will be in the B'abda presidential palace in a matter of days. The president has set a specific deadline for the mediation efforts conducted by friendly regional and international parties, and should the deadline pass without positive results, other means will be sought, the president said.

President al-Hirawi, who met for 2 hours with the chief editor in a curtainless, hastily furnished office with boarded-up windows in the "Ablah" barracks in al-Biqa', declared that he would rather enter the presidential palace with an olive branch than a gun barrel. If a peaceful solution should prove unattainable, however, he added: "The onus will be on the usurper and those shedding tears around him."

The president disclosed that he has instructed General Emile Lahhud to prepare to go into the eastern districts and that the latter has been touring the barracks to get ready to implement those instructions and end the anomalous situation. He pointed out that he is not enlisting any militia to evict 'Awn from the place in which he illegally installed himself, and declared that the Lebanese Army is capable of carrying out the mission.

President al-Hirawi said confidently that a crack will soon develop in the military units deployed in the eastern districts. He emphasized that the status quo will not last and that "he is convinced of the patriotism of the army officers and soldiers who will join forces with the legitimate authorities" and that he has received information supporting this assumption. He added: "I have no wish to engage in vituperative words with 'Awn. Today, however, I heard from radio broadcasts that 'Awn is disposed to an accommodation with Syria and that if the latter could convince him that its security interests dictate the continued deployment of Syrian forces on Lebanese territory, he will be quite prepared. [sentence as published]

Let us wait and see whether his action is consistent with his words:

1. In what capacity he wants to talk to the Syrians I do not know. If in a political capacity, Syria is accommodating and receives politicians of different shades of opinion. However, future negotiations must take place between the Lebanese and Syrian governments. I will not have individuals joining these negotiations. He can do it by submitting a memorandum or having a parliament member speak on his behalf in the Chamber of Deputies. This I will accept, but I will not stand for the state becoming a free-for-all with each person opening negotiations on his own behalf.

2. In a statement this morning, he recognizes Syria's vital interests. The al-Ta'if agreement did not provide for that. We have said that the Lebanese and Syrian governments will conduct negotiations by virtue of history. At any rate, we are neighbors, geographically speaking. President al-Hirawi denied that he was forced to shelve the military option because of hints emanating from Israel. He explained that the request came from friends in major world powers and others and that the waiting period would be very limited. Israel, which works for partition, "shall not deter me from embarking on whatever moves will unify the country," he declared.

He said a forthcoming cabinet session will order the dissolution of the militias. If any of them defies the dissolution order, the appropriate means will be employed and the help of Syrian forces may possibly be sought, as stipulated by the al-Ta'if agreement. "I pledge that the militia forces will disappear."

Characterizing himself as a living martyr, Al-Hirawi said that the doors of the presidential palace are open for Dr Samir Ja'ja', who was among the first to recognize the legitimacy of constitutional moves, primarily the election of the president, noting that Ja'ja' has come out clearly in favor of uniting the country and implementing the al-Ta'if accord.

Al-Hirawi said: "I want to talk to Syria as one independent state to another independent state. If Syria should make a demand incompatible with our independence and freedom, then I would say gently: "Sorry, but I will not stand for that."

Regarding the situation in southern Lebanon, he hailed the resistance against the Israeli occupation forces. He stressed that Lebanese armed forces would be built to ensure compliance with the armistice agreement and then "we will make the efforts required to promote implementation of Resolution 425."

Cabinet Ends Meeting, Nixes Ambassador to U.S.

NC0712162289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The cabinet meeting which was held in Ablah under President Ilyas al-Hirawi and attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and ministers ended at 1425 today. Information Minister Edmond Rizq made a statement in which he explained that the cabinet adopted several resolutions to end the partitionist state in the country by calling on all parties concerned to join it within the framework of legality and discontinue the course of fragmentation and disintegration.

The Council of Ministers emphasized the unity of the Lebanese Army and its discipline. It made a decision on appointments in the Foreign Ministry, which will be

published as soon as possible. The Council of Ministers decided to participate in certain Arab and international conferences. It studied the issue of public servants, contract employees, and hired workers. It asked the competent ministers to make proposals on any appointments they deem necessary. The Council of Ministers also studied the passport issue and decided to put the issuance of passports under the control of one department.

Information Minister Rizq stated that the Council of Ministers decided to raise the minimum wage in the private sector from 25,000 to 45,000 Lebanese pounds. It also approved a 70-percent cost-of-living increase on the first part of salaries up to 100,000 Lebanese pounds and a 60-percent increase on the second part of salaries, provided that the increase should not be less than 25,000 Lebanese pounds to hired workers covered by the minimum wage and not exceed 100,000 Lebanese pounds. The increase was made retroactive until 30 June 1989. A bill was approved applying the same increase to public sector employees. The bill will be referred to the Chamber of Deputies.

[Beirut Voice of National Resistance Arabic at 1530 GMT on 7 December, in a report on the cabinet meeting, notes that the Council of Ministers also studied the issue of the Israeli attacks on the south and the lodging of a complaint with the UN Security Council. The cabinet went on to reserve the right to call for a UN Security Council meeting to study the Israeli attacks. The report adds that the Council of Ministers has also decided to terminate the services of 'Abdallah Abu-Habib, the Lebanese ambassador to the United States.]

General Michel 'Awn Calls for Referendum

PM0712124089 Paris LIBERATION in French 4 Dec 89 pp 28, 29

[Interview with Lebanese Christian leader General Michel 'Awn by Marc Kravetz in B'abda on 1 December]

[Excerpt] B'abda—[Introductory passage omitted]

LIBERATION: What are you proposing?

Michel 'Awn: First, I would like to say that the al-Ta'if agreement is neither the beginning nor the end of the world. There are many other possibilities for solving the Lebanese crisis. The one chosen in al-Ta'if is a bad one and resolves nothing. This agreement must be revised. I have proposals to make for doing that, but I am also proposing that a referendum and free elections be held subsequently under UN control to allow the people to give their verdict on Lebanon's future and to appoint real representatives instead of the deputies elected in 1972 who no longer represent anything and who have just extended their mandate until 1994.

LIBERATION: What would the referendum be about?

Michel 'Awn: It would be a referendum on the reaffirmed fundamental principles—Lebanon's sovereignty, integrity, and independence, and its freedom to make its own choices.

LIBERATION: You would like the people to give their verdict on the "revised" al-Ta'if agreement. What "revision" do you want?

Michel 'Awn: The agreement mixes two spheres which have nothing to do with each other. The first relates to Lebanon, the affirmation of fundamental principles, and political reforms. This is the sphere in which the people must give their verdict and in which Syria has no say. The second part relates to Syrian-Lebanese relations and Syria's vital interests.

LIBERATION: So, you recognize that it has vital interests in Lebanon?

Michel 'Awn: Obviously, and I would like to add that it is up to Syria to define them and to subsequently determine with Lebanese representatives chosen in free elections how they should be defended in Lebanon, in accordance with the law and international regulations, of course. However, I refuse to allow the Syrian presence in Lebanon to be left to the arbitrary decision of the Syrian regime or an individual Syrian leader. This must all be clearly stated and codified.

LIBERATION: You cannot revise the al-Ta'if agreement alone. This presupposes negotiations among the Lebanese. Do you accept that?

Michel 'Awn: I have constantly hoped for that. Let us gather the Lebanese leaders around a table and talk. There is no other solution, but there is one condition: It is only possible to have valid discussions among free Lebanese. Our interlocutors from the other side must therefore be free or at least protected from Syrian pressures.

LIBERATION: You must admit that you have not made things easy. When it was possible, you rejected any contact with possible partners from the "other side" on the pretext that they were not "free." Even if you do not recognize them, there is a head of state, a prime minister and a government. On the strength of what you represent, why not talk with them?

Michel 'Awn: Because they have no proposals to make to me and I have nothing to ask of them. It is not a personal matter. I do not have any Lebanese enemies—neither Al-Hirawi (the president—LIBERATION editor's note) nor Al-Huss (the prime minister—LIBERATION editor's note). I did not fight Ilyas al-Hirawi any more than I fought Rene Mu'awwad, who is unfortunately dead. I am not competing against them. I do not aspire to any post. I am not a candidate. We are not talking on the same basis. I have no reason to negotiate with them. I am seeking an honorable solution for Lebanon.

LIBERATION: Yes, but you have to talk with other Lebanese...

Michel 'Awn: Obviously, who can revise the al-Ta'if agreement other than Lebanese officials representing active forces (the name usually used for the militia—LIBERATION editor's note). It is them I am addressing. Let us sit down at a roundtable to work on it on neutral territory. I agree to meet all those Lebanese leaders.

LIBERATION: It will not be easy. Your Lebanese opponents say that your attitude only leaves a choice between partition and war.

Michel 'Awn: This country still exists on the world map. It is in crisis, but it exists. Just suppose it disappeared. The vacuum created would not remain for long; others would rush in to control it, bringing the risk of an all-out war in the Near East. Dividing the country or choosing unity are not choices which can be made under occupation. Once free, we will decide whether or not we want to continue living together. I am accused of wanting partition, but I say that there is an attempt to impose unification on us under Syrian occupation. That is the real choice. That is what we are resisting. Even if we were to lose the battle, it will not be said that we gave up our right to a sovereign and independent Lebanon with territorial integrity.

LIBERATION: Are you in favor of partitioning Lebanon or not?

Michel 'Awn: I am opposed to it, totally opposed to it. There are many problems among the Lebanese, but there are solutions for settling disputes among our communities—decentralized, federal, confederal solutions. Several countries have such structures. Let us examine them and think of others.

LIBERATION: What kind of Lebanon do you dream about for the Lebanese?

Michel 'Awn: I want a sovereign Lebanon and I want it to be free because for me freedom symbolizes all human values. I want a modern Lebanon to place technical progress at this country's disposal. I want a Lebanon which is independent throughout the 10,452 square kilometers of its territory. I know no other Lebanon.

LIBERATION: Many non-Christian Lebanese share this ideal. Some might say it in the same words as you and perhaps even secretly support you. However, they distrust you. Many think that your fine words conceal a "Maronite" or "Maronitist" plan. In other words, either you fail and the tiny Christian Lebanon secedes, or you succeed and Maronite power will be imposed on all.

Michel 'Awn: This fear is legitimate and I understand it. The bad experiences of the past justify those who think in this way. But I can answer them. There are guarantees. There are at least two. The first is personal. I was born in a multi-confessional suburb of Beirut and I learned to think as a Lebanese there. The other guarantee is collective. Listen to the people who have gathered round the palace to support me. They are demonstrating for Lebanon, for the whole of Lebanon and nothing else. I would not have undertaken this task if I was not thinking of my whole country and all my people. I am not a Christian general. I am a Lebanese who feels solidarity with all the Lebanese, and it is a Lebanese solution which we must find together. And it must be an honorable solution for all because nobody must feel that he has failed.

'Awn Says Danger of Confrontation 'Receding'

NC0712154889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Delegations continued to come to B'abda palace today to express support for the stands of Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn.

Addressing a joint delegation from the social scouts grouping and the Maronite scouts group, Gen 'Awn said: We have kept the danger of military confrontation at bay today but it cannot be kept there forever. However, I can say that the danger is receding because of the sincere stands and your commitment to the values you are defending. He added that the Lebanese people are for the first time coming together through their thinking, values, and daily lives and have thus succeeded in rousing world public opinion.

PSP's Walid Junblatt Declares 'Awn Must Go

PM0712114089 Paris LIBERATION in French 4 Dec 89 p 28

[Interview with Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) Chairman Walid Junblatt by Marc Kravetz in Mukhtarah on 1 December]

[Excerpt] Mukhtarah—[Introductory passage omitted]

LIBERATION: In the Christian areas you are accused of trying to make the Christians second-class citizens in a Muslim entity, and they are saying that they have nothing to lose...

Walid Junblatt: Let us have an end to these stories. There has never been any persecution of the Christians in the east. Who would dare say that the Syrian Christians are second-class citizens? The truth is that there is a Muslim majority in this country and that they do not want to accept it. The Maronites are deceiving themselves and you. They want to keep everything at the risk of losing everything. By supporting Michel 'Awn, France is playing with fire.

LIBERATION: Is that how you understand the French position?

Walid Junblatt: It is a fact. There is a Franco-Israeli coalition for the partition of Lebanon and the creation of a Christian state. It is ridiculous. But that is the case. I fail to understand this irrational hatred of the Muslims and Syria.

LIBERATION: You must also take into account the reaction of a section of French opinion to the hostages and terrorism. That was all carried out in regions under Syrian control.

Walid Junblatt: Excellent. You demand the Syrians' immediate withdrawal. To whom do you want to give the country? To the Palestinians? To Hizballah?

LIBERATION: Is there no other choice?

Walid Junblatt: There is the al-Ta'if agreement. We were not satisfied with it, but since everybody was in favor of it, we accepted it as a reasonable basis. But, as usual, we reach agreement with the Maronites, we accept concession after concession to reach agreement, we succeed, and a Maronite leader destroys everything. It is always the same story. They thwarted the tripartite agreement in 1985 and General 'Awn is sabotaging the al-Ta'if agreement. They talk to us about freedom and democracy, but democracy ends if the majority is no longer Christian.

LIBERATION: Especially, they say, if that majority decrees an Islamic Republic....

Walid Junblatt: Stop frightening yourselves. Nobody is talking about that. Nobody wants it. It is another excuse dreamed up to reject any change in this country. The al-Ta'if agreement was reached at the Muslims' expense, particularly at the expense of the Shiites and Druzes. They still have their Maronite president, and the army commander in chief is a Maronite. What more do they want?

LIBERATION: The fact remains that there is complete political deadlock. You are faced with Michel 'Awn, why not talk to him?

Walid Junblatt: Every effort was made to involve him in the al-Ta'if talks. He refused everything. Now that there are legal institutions—a presidency, and a government—making Michel 'Awn an interlocutor means ratifying the country's partition. He must be removed from B'abda, by force or peacefully, but he must leave.

LIBERATION: What would a "peaceful" solution be?

Walid Junblatt: It depends on the French. It is up to them to persuade him to go and to take him in hand.

LIBERATION: Let us suppose that he does not agree. That leaves force. Would a mass intervention against the Christian stronghold solve the Lebanese problem?

Walid Junblatt: We will have new discussions with the Christians on a new solution, a new national pact. Samir Ja'ja' (the leader of the Lebanese Forces militia—LIBERATION editor's note) can be a government minister if he wishes. But time is running out. It is already almost too late. Unless we get rid of Michel 'Awn and sit around a table, I see no solution and not much future for this country.

LIBERATION: What about Syria?

Walid Junblatt: I do not say that it is a land of freedom, but compared with others, despite its economic problems, it remains strong. We think that it contributes to stability and security.

LIBERATION: Do you think that it is definitely impossible to negotiate?

Walid Junblatt: With which Maronite interlocutors? Who can claim to represent the Maronites? In the past there was the patriarch, with his influence and prestige. Where is the patriarch now? They attacked him; he left; and now he is silent.

LIBERATION: That leaves Michel 'Awn. He has the strength; he is popular; he really represents the vast majority of his community. With who else can you negotiate peace?

Walid Junblatt: I repeat that it is impossible. He is mad; he wants to blow up the world; he is leading us to disaster. He must go. It is a pity. The man is likable, and at least he is sincere. But, after all, Hitler was sincere was he not?

LIBERATION: How long can this situation last?

Walid Junblatt: One week. Not more.

Junblatt Sees Military Moves as Likely Solution

PM0712150689 Paris LE FIGARO in French 6 Dec 89 p 6

[Interview with Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party Chairman Walid Junblatt by Claude Lorieux in Mukhtarah—date not given]

[Excerpt] Beirut—A military operation to install President Ilyas al-Hirawi in the B'abda Palace will probably be necessary, but it does not imply either "a massive operation against the Christian area in general" or "the deployment of the Syrian Army in the Christian sector," according to Walid Junblatt, leader of the Druze community and minister of public works in the Salim al-Huss government.

However, Junblatt, who received us in his family home in Mukhtarah in the heart of the al-Shuf mountains, thinks that such an operation is inevitable "to avoid Lebanon's partition," unless General Michel 'Awn accepts a political solution to the crisis. This intervention, which would be aimed at B'abda and the defense ministry in al-Yarzah (both in the Christian sector), could not be carried out while the "carnival"—in other words the demonstrations of support for Gen 'Awn—continues. "It will take 1 or 2 weeks. We are in no hurry," Junblatt specified, pacing his huge office which is decorated with a huge golden Buddha and a picture of Kamal Junblatt, his father who was assassinated. However, he is aware of the fact that such an intervention would cause civilian casualties: "There are Christians everywhere," and hence around B'abda and al-Yarzah.

LE FIGARO: Is there now a greater risk of the country being divided?

Walid Junblatt: It is greater than ever. Until now, we have always had a semblance of unity, of a legal government. With Michel 'Awn (who refuses to recognize President al-Hirawi and the Al-Huss government—LE FIGARO editor's note) things have moved toward partition.

LE FIGARO: With what results?

Walid Junblatt: All regions are in danger of sliding into chaos. Lebanon's partition would cast doubt on the agreements reached after the 1914-18 war on the borders of what was the Ottoman Empire. That would play into the hands of the Israelis and Palestinians. However, the division of the country would run counter to the interests of the Christians living in the Near East, in Syria and Egypt in particular. This separate Christian Lebanon would not be big enough to receive them.

LE FIGARO: France has recognized the Al-Hirawi-Al-Huss government, particularly through Quai d'Orsay Secretary General Francois Scheer.

Walid Junblatt: France is playing a double game. In fact Mr Scheer is in a minority. France continues to support 'Awn. By acting in this way, it is endangering the Christians in the east. Christian radicalism is likely to exacerbate Muslim radicalism. If France wants to create a Christian state, as Britain formerly established a Jewish state, it may succeed. But at what price?

LE FIGARO: However, the Syrian presence in Lebanon is not synonymous with freedom of speech.

Walid Junblatt: There is no freedom while we have the Syrian Army or the militias. This is true in the area controlled by "the South Lebanon Army" (financed by Israel—LE FIGARO editor's note). It is true in the areas controlled by Walid Junblatt. You see, I start with myself. Because I want a state with institutions.

The question now is to establish what we would have instead of the Syrians—Hizballah or the Palestinians. 'Arafat has a strong presence in Sidon; he is waiting for his chance to retake Beirut. If the Syrian Army withdraws, who will control West Beirut and some parts of the mountains? The Lebanese Army? On our side—in other words on the Muslim side—the army is too weak to carry out that mission.

LE FIGARO: You criticize the presence in B'abda of French deputies who, you say, "have come to fight their election campaign in Lebanon." But when former Iranian Interior Minister Mohtashemi visits Lebanon nobody expresses surprise.

Walid Junblatt: First, Mohtashemi's visit was discreet. Second, until there is a solution in Lebanon, we will not be able to prevent Iran from showing an interest in the Lebanese Shiites with whom it has very long-standing relations. This is similar to the way in which the Maronites look to France as their mother country.

LE FIGARO: Is a federal solution conceivable to prevent partition?

Walid Junblatt: A federation in such a small country! We need a central government with centralized foreign policy and finances. I am not in favor of partitioning the country, but nor am I in favor of a completely centralized system. For instance, it is possible to imagine district police forces. But, at a time when the Berlin Wall is collapsing, we are not going to start building one here in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Paper Reports French Plan for Lebanon

LD0812092189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0826 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 8 (KUNA)—France has introduced a 9-point plan on the present situation in Lebanon, which calls for, among other things, inviting ex-army chief general Michel 'Awn or anyone representing him to take part in a government re-shuffle, a high-level political source has disclosed to daily AL-QABAS.

A copy of the plan, published here Friday, was supplied by the source to the daily.

In a dispatch from Beirut, the paper said the French plan calls for withdrawing all Syrian reinforcements from Lebanese territories and restoring the situation to the way it was before Nov 3.

It urged Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi to stop his media campaigns against Gen. 'Awn, and for the latter to follow suit.

The plan stresses that 'Awn is urged to accept the al-Ta'if accord, especially the part dealing with political reforms, and to retract his decision on dissolving the parliament early last month.

The newly-formed Lebanese Government must discuss the issues of sovereignty and withdrawals, concluding a clear timetable for the Syrian pullout, within the two-year period specified by the al-Ta'if charter, according to the plan.

It also calls for holding a national reconciliation meeting among all parties concerned at the parliament.

The plan stressed that a meeting must take place between President al-Hirawi and 'Awn at B'abda Palace, during which the latter would leave the palace for the former.

Meanwhile, well-placed sources said that though parts of the plan cannot be accepted, some of its articles can be a basis for dialogue to break the deadlock.

Fighting Between Amal, Hizballah Continues

Official Demands Inquiry

NC0712132889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Our correspondent in western al-Biqa' reports that normalcy has been restored to the region, following the clashes which raged between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. The roadblocks were removed from Suhmur today and no armed presence is noticed in the town's streets.

Suhmur's Imam Shaykh Asadallah al-Hurshi made a statement in which he said that recent incidents in the region were a real tragedy which could have been averted.

He added: We are working to restore calm in the town and normalcy is returning gradually. We will work to return all the sons of the region to their villages, he promised. Addressing Hizballah and Amal officials, he appealed to them to intensify their efforts to avoid any future problem. He thanked all, particularly the Syrian forces and the Iranian Embassy.

Haj Ahmad Qamar, Hizballah media official in the region said: As Islamic resistance, we demand and insist on forming an investigation committee representing Syria, Iran, and Amal and Hizballah officials to determine each side's responsibility for what had happened. He added: The recent incidents were not an individual problem, but rather a decision to violate the Damascus-Tehran agreement. This violation is a betrayal, he said.

Qamar added: To avoid a repetition of this situation, the results of the investigation must be published, so that the public can learn about them.

Responding to a question on Amal member's return to the region, Qamar said: Several brother Amal members are still in their villages doing their jobs normally. Any brother Amal member who left the region can return, because these are their villages. Our only ambition is to let these lands be a base for jihad and resistance.

Syrians Move To End Clashes

NC0712153789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Syrian forces began to deploy in the al-Khandaq al-Ghamig, al-Musaytibah, and Hawd al-Wilayah areas at 1530 today to establish control of the situation following clashes earlier today between Amal and Hizballah gunmen. A joint committee from the two sides is assisting the Syrian deployment in the tense areas which is aimed at consolidating security and tranquillity.

The clashes between the two parties began at approximately 1130 today in the areas of al-Basta, al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, and al-Musaytibah. The two sides used light- and medium-caliber weapons and rockets. The clashes were accompanied by reciprocal alerts and gunmen roamed areas adjacent to the tense areas. At approximately 1400 today, the clashes were renewed and both parties exchanged sporadic gun and rocket fire.

Clashes Reportedly Continuing

NC0712161089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Clashes are continuing between gunmen of the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the areas of al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, al-Musaytibah, and Burj Abu-Haydar. Rockets and machineguns are being used in the clashes and the sounds of explosions are being heard in the capital.

Intensive contacts have failed to contain the clashes, which have caused a number of injuries according to preliminary reports. Ahmad Shamma was wounded and taken to al-Rasul al-A'zam Hospital.

Hizballah sources have pointed out that the cease-fire, which was to have taken effect at 1700, was not heeded.

In another development, the combat lines of al-Ma'rufiyah-Bsaba and 'Aytat-Suq al-Gharb were the scene of isolated clashes involving machineguns and artillery shells this afternoon.

7 Wounded in Fighting

NC0712203989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The fighting between Amal and Hizballah gunmen is continuing in the areas of al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, Burj Abu-Haydar, Hayy al-Lija, and Burj al-Murr. According to AFP, seven people have been wounded in the clashes so far. A cease-fire agreement was reached at 1800, but it was not honored.

Cease-Fire Agreement 8 Dec

NC0812072589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The Hizballah-Amal security committee and a number of Syrian officers met to contain the regrettable clashes that took place yesterday and at dawn today in some areas in the western area. An agreement was reached during the meeting to cease fire at 0800 today.

Meanwhile, Syrian forces are patrolling the various scenes of tension and are trying to stabilize the security situation.

Clashes 'Escalate'; 5 Dead

NC0812081489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen escalated a short time ago. Violent clashes involving of rockets, artillery, and machineguns are now raging in Burj Abu-Haydar, especially in the area of the Iranian chancellery.

Meanwhile, intermittent clashes are taking place between the two parties in the areas of Wadi Abu-Jamil and al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq amid a strong armed presence in the areas of al-Basta and Hayy al-Lija.

Amal and Hizballah sources indicated this morning that an agreement to cease fire at 0800 this morning had been reached. However, the cease-fire was not adhered to.

The clashes that have been continuing since yesterday morning left 5 persons dead and approximately 15 others wounded.

Confrontation Lines in Beirut

NC0812092289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Intermittent clashes between Amal Movement and Hizballah forces are continuing in the areas of Burj Abu-Haydar, Hawd al-Wilayah, al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, and Jisr Salim Salam in West Beirut. The two parties have continued their mobilization activities in other areas where heavy clashes involving the use of tanks, mortars, machineguns, and RPG's occurred yesterday throughout the day.

Confrontation lines between Amal and Hizballah forces have been established in West Beirut. The main confrontation line extends from the area west of the Ring to Corniche al-Mazra'ah. Other confrontation lines have also emerged. Hizballah is reinforcing its positions on the al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq-al-Basta line to the east. In addition, it has forces in the Abu-Jamil and Starco areas. Amal is deployed along the Zuqaq al-Balat-al-Musaytibah-Karakul al-Duruz-Mar Ilyas line in the west.

A state of alert exists in Beirut's Southern Suburb and its outskirts where Amal-Hizballah clashes occurred yesterday.

Citing medical sources, AFP has reported that 6 persons have been killed and another 18 wounded in the ongoing clashes between Amal and Hizballah forces.

Birri Urges 'Self-Restraint'

NC0812093089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0830 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] A Hizballah security source has made the following statement: Despite a cease-fire reached early this morning, the Amal Movement forces violated the agreement and launched several attacks in the Burj Abu-Haydar area. The intensity of fighting in this area subsided a short while ago but intermittent clashes continue on other fronts.

Commenting on these painful events, [leader of Islamic Amal Movement] Husayn al-Musawi urged the two sides to spare the blood which is urgently needed by all Muslims in their battle against their enemies. He added that internecine fighting is occurring just a few meters from the Zionist enemy. Our main concern, however, is the situation in the eastern areas and not because some of us feel nervous about others, Al-Musawi concluded.

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has called for self-restraint and asked his gunmen to cooperate with the security commands.

'Fierce' Fighting Erupts

NC0812101989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Fierce fighting between Amal and Hizballah gunmen erupted in the Burj Abu-Haydar area at 1030. Amal Movement sources said that Hizballah gunmen launched an offensive on the movement's positions in the area which was checked by the Amal fighters. Meanwhile, units of Syrian forces were deployed in the Jisr Salim Salam area and on the periphery of the Iranian Chancellery at 1100 and are are currently endeavoring to withdraw the gunmen from the Corniche al-Mazra'ah area.

Iranian Embassy Intercedes

LD0812110389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Armed clashes between the revolutionary movement of Hizballah and the Amal forces, which began in the western sector of Beirut yesterday lunchtime, continued all through the night and this morning. AFP, quoting hospital authorities in Beirut, reported that so far 6 people have been killed and 18 wounded in these clashes.

The Central News Unit reports that the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut has begun efforts in order to halt these clashes, and an official of the embassy expressed the hope that a cease-fire would come into force during the next few hours.

Syrians To Enforce Cease-Fire

NC0812112989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Clashes with machineguns and rockets between Amal and Hizballah are continuing in the Burj Abu-Haydar and al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq areas of West Beirut. Gunmen on both sides are on alert in all the areas where the fighting has raged and in some areas of the Southern Suburb. Amal sources accused Hizballah of trying to advance on the Iranian Chancellery axis at 1000 today. Hizballah sources denied this.

The fighting has so far left nine people dead of whom the following have been identified: Khudr al-Saghir, 'Isam Makhzumi, Hasan Shuman, Husayn Haydar, Khalil 'Ali al-Haj, Hayat Sinnu, Muhammad Humayd, and Mahmud Sa'id Darwish.

According to security sources, the Syrians have deployed patrols in the capital's streets in order to withdraw the groups of gunmen that both sides have brought to the scene of the fighting. The patrols are trying to enter the areas of the clashes.

AFP reported that the Syrians will open fire without warning on all those who do not observe the cease-fire.

Syria Seeks To Avoid Milita

JN0712223689 Damascus Do

2115 GMT 7 Dec 89

y Force Against 'Awn

mestic Service in Arabic

[Text] Information Minister stated Syria is committed to Muhammad Salman has the al-Ta'if conference, whic the resolutions adopted at mate Lebanese Government stipulate that the legiti- Syrian help to impose its tot has the right to ask for territory and unify the state's authority over Lebanese Lebanese Army and internal institutions, including the ecurity forces.

In a statement to a BBC radi today, Salman added: From o correspondent broadcast ready to meet all the demand his premise, Syria will be Government might make to hds the legitimate Lebanese lp achieve these objectives.

The information minister, i whether Syria is ready eventua reply to a question on other methods fail, said that ully to use military force if sively under the jurisdiction ecision will remain exclu- Government. No other party of the legitimate Lebanese decision, Salman added. is authorized to make this

The information minister ind so far has prompted the Syri cated the only factor that military force to end Gener an leadership to rule out against the legitimate Lebanes al Michel 'Awn's mutiny desire to prevent heavy losse se authority is Damascus' Beirut, which is under the cont s among civilians in East Salman added: 'Awn is using rol of 'Awn and his group. East Beirut for protection. N the civilian population of will not be able to drag Sy matter how he tries, he storming East Beirut, becaus ria's feet into militarily civilians are the first ones har we fully are aware the med in such action.

Salman went on to say: Inflicti to a large-scale exodus by the ng such losses would lead This is something Syria seeks residents of East Beirut. intends to preserve Lebanon's to avoid, considering it tion, as well as the diverse na demographic configura- The information minister said: ture of Lebanese society. troops could settle rapidly the If they wanted to, Syrian through military means. The S issue of 'Awn in Lebanon is fully convinced there will rian leadership, however, means. He expressed the convi be no need to use such from the Lebanese stage only ction that 'Awn's removal added this will be done quickly is a matter of time. He , through political means.

When asked about the reinfo troops stationed in Lebanon, S rcements sent to Syrian felt the need to do this. It felt lman said: Damascus has decisive step to prevent the ou the need to take such a confrontation between the wa btreak of a new military which Syria does not want. He rring Lebanese factions, troops' role on the contact li added: Hence, the Syrian preventing the outbreak of a ne es currently focuses on designed to obstruct the imple w military confrontation agreement. mentation of the al-Ta'if

Concluding his statement, the i The responsibility for preservi nformation minister said: ng and implementing the al-Ta'if agreement currently is a comprehensive Lebanese, Arab, and international one. He said, however, that at the same time Syria will remain, operationally speaking, the only force capable of keeping things under control until the legitimate Lebanese authorities manage to impose their full authority over Lebanese soil.

Lebanon's Plight 'Will Not Last Much Longer'

JN0712162489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic

1230 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The theatrical goings-on in front of Ba'abda Palace only have increased the Lebanese conviction the rebellion and the specter that hangs over the country's future need to be ended. Whereas the legitimate authorities are going out of their way to facilitate 'Awn's departure without bloodshed, and are handling the situation with admirable wisdom out of concern for the Lebanese homeland and people and in order to spare both further torment, the insurgents continue their farce, making noises as if to invite the intervention of Israeli and racist anti-Arab foreign forces. They are trying to whip up an atmosphere of confusion and build up pressure against the legitimate authorities to keep them from taking decisive action.

Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi said yesterday, as he often has said, that giving a political solution a chance does not mean weakening the resolve to settle the question. After all, the homeland belongs to its children, and under no circumstances will sacrificing homeland and people on the altar of a power-hungry and bloodthirsty rebellious officer be accepted.

The president has made it clear Army Commander General 'Imad Lahhud has been instructed to take whatever steps are required to bring the eastern districts back to the fold, reassert state authority, and secure peace for all Lebanese. The people of the eastern districts are going through a trauma, with their hearts reaching out to the legitimate authorities and their brothers in the western districts. They are being subjected to the terror and pressure tactics of 'Awn's aberrant clique, so they swear allegiance to his tyranny and look on as Lebanon is dismembered and destroyed. Given a choice between democratic legitimacy and 'Awn, presumably no Lebanese would choose to give up a united, free, and democratic Lebanon in favor of a sectarian ghetto founded on fear and devoid of civilized, human values. It is instructive to compare the self- confident and popular-based legitimate authorities who are committed to the territorial integrity of Lebanon, to the secessionist forces sponsored by Israel and the enemies of Lebanon and the Arab nation. Whereas the legitimate authorities secure for the Lebanese peace, stability, affluence, coexistence, and social justice, and an end to sectarian and social discrimination, the partitionist forces want the Lebanese to divorce themselves from their environment, eradicate

their Arab affiliation and indigenous civilization, and substitute the false for the real.

It is no coincidence the entire world has taken the side of Lebanon's legitimate authorities, come out in favor of national reconciliation, denounced the insubordination of 'Awn and his clique, and urged them submit to the popular will. Nor is it coincidental the Arabs have chosen to support President al-Hirawi and his efforts to return the usurped eastern districts to the fold. Nor is it surprising only two parties have sided with 'Awn and his cliques—Israel, the racist, truculent entity that has committed the worst crimes against the Arabs, and the treasonous Iraqi regime, which has played hovoc with the resources of two friendly countries, led millions of innocent people to death and helplessness, and unscrupulously ordered the use of chemical, toxic gases against his countrymen.

Israel, the Saddam regime, and the 'Awn clique have in common the thirst for innocent blood and for thwarting the aspirations of peoples. No matter how much longer Lebanon's plight continues, Lebanon is bound to triumph. Its plight, however, will not last much longer, as 'Awn and company seem to think. The legitimate authorities are strong and enjoy overwhelming popular support and widespread Arab and international backing. The country's legitimate authorities, after all, have the irreversible tide of history on their side.

Officials Address Rally on Intifadah Anniversary

JN0812060289 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, 7 Dec (SANA)—Dr Tawfiq Salihah, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, has stated Syria will continue to support the nationalist Lebanese stance, Lebanese legitimacy, the valiant nationalist Lebanese resistance in southern Lebanon, and will continue to safeguard the independence, Arabism, and unity of Lebanese territory, people, and institutions.

This came in a speech delivered by Dr Salihah to a massive march at Al-Yarmuk refugee camp in Damascus in which tens of thousands of Palestinians and Syrians participated to glorify the kinfolk's intifadah in the occupied Arab territories, which has entered its third year. All Palestinian resistance factions took part in the march.

Salihah said the treasonous stand of rebel Michel 'Awn, who is leading a partitioning plot supported by the fascist regime in Iraq and by Israel, clearly reveals 'Awn and his supporters are linked with the imperialist-Zionist scheme in the Arab region.

Dr Salihah described the interference of some French parliamentarians in the Lebanese problem and their meeting with agent 'Awn as flagrant interference in Lebanon's internal affairs and a clear encroachment on its sovereignty.

Dr Salihah talked about our kinfolk's intifadah in the occupied Arab territories and the Golan Heights. He said the steadfastness and duration of the valiant intifadah has had a great militant effect on all strugglers because it has violently shaken the alien racist Zionist entity, which has desecrated Palestine's soil and cultural history.

He said the intifadah exposed to the entire world the reality of the Zionist entity as a colonialist base founded on racist, aggressive, and expansionist pillars. He said this has evoked condemnation of the Zionist entity by the international community through its international and regional bodies and organizations.

Dr Salihah said revolutionary Syria views our kinfolk's escalating popular intifadah in the occupied homeland, which has turned into a comprehensive revolution, as a revival and revolutionary consolidation of our Palestinian Arab people's march of struggle and sacrifices. Syria also views the intifadah as an assertion of continued struggle and firm insistence on armed struggle until the land is liberated.

He said the valiant intifadah has proven with great effectiveness it is too great to be contained, no matter how tense and diverse the plots against it become, given it is an expression of our people's greatness. He said this greatness was manifested throughout history by our people's refusal to be wronged, their resistance to aggression, and their sacrifices for pan-Arab goals. He said our heroic Palestinian Arab people's struggle is deeply rooted, and events in the occupied homeland confirm the Palestinian people are militant, and their militant fire cannot be extinguished.

Dr Salihah said militant and steadfast Syria will continue to give all it can to support our kinfolk's intifadah in the occupied territories and to protect it against containment and termination so it can continue its strong confrontation of the Zionist occupation forces. He said through its heroic struggle and heavy sacrifices, the intifadah daily expresses disdain for the deviants, capitulationists, defeatists, and agents.

Dr Salihah said Syria's position on the Palestinian cause and revolution is principled and constant. He said Arab Syria shoulders the burden of the Palestine question and does its best for its sake. Based on this, our party and people have devoted all their potential to achieving strategic parity with the Zionist enemy to liberate the land and restore the Palestinian people's usurped rights, Salihah added.

Salihah affirmed Syria understands Arab solidarity means pooling various Arab resources in the common Arab battle against the Zionist enemy, its defenders, and those who deal with it. He said Syria understands Arab solidarity is not a cover for deviation, capitulation, or liquidation, or for solutions being promoted at several levels.

Khalid al-Fahum, [former] speaker of the Palestine National Council, delivered the Palestinian revolution's

address, in which he said the Palestinian intifadah has grown up, and that this revolt will continue until its primary slogan—no to coexistence with the enemy—is achieved.

Al-Fahum urged the Arab nation materially and morally support the intifadah. He said Arab support currently is less than the minimum needed, and it seems some Arab regimes fear the extension of the intifadah to their own peoples.

He added the intifadah has brought the Palestine question to center stage when it was in danger of being shelved. He said the intifadah consolidated the principles of the national Palestinian struggle to liberate the national soil, over which the intifadah has achieved unity in the field.

Al-Fahum attacked the Baker plan and all liquidationist and capitulationist schemes aimed at annihilating the intifadah. He emphasized that, based on the Palestinian people's living will, the intifadah rejects all capitulationist proposals.

Paper Gives 'Political Analysis' of Malta Meeting

JN0512194889 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Dec 89 p 2

["Political analysis" by Nadiyah Dumyati: "The Malta Summit and the New Fabric of International Relations"]

[Text] In their first summit meeting, the Soviet leader and the U.S. President chose the waters of the Mediterranean—close to Europe, where rapid political events are taking place—as the venue for their unofficial meeting. The meeting will be aboard a Soviet warship the first day and aboard a U.S. warship the next.

Since the date of the Malta meeting was announced, there has been much speculation on the urgent issues to be raised by both superpowers at the negotiating table of this, the strangest of summits, although it was described by Bush as the summit of no surprises.

With or without surprises, no agenda has been set and no topics have been specified for the Malta summit. Both sides have left the door open for speculation and, moreover, for imagination on the question that has been asked for a month, namely, "why this quick meeting in Malta when an official summit is set for August 1990?"

Throughout this month, which has been full of questions, both sides to the summit have given no clear answers.

For example, is it possible to say the two leaders have arranged so quickly to meet on a sea that is open to all world seas and includes the shores of the old world, the scene of innumerable wars, in order to discuss strategic weapons cuts or to tackle regional dangers or disputes in the Middle East, Angola, Central America, or Afghanistan, whose president urged the Malta summit to reopen the file of the Afghan problem?

The answers have been conflicting and contradictory. While the world press says the Malta summit will address all world troubles—such as the arms race, regional disputes, economic problems, and environmental pollution—U.S. sources announced the Malta summit will not discuss arms control, and that its aim is to avert a U.S.-USSR misunderstanding after the current rapid changes in Eastern Europe. What is more important is Bush refused to discuss peace in the Mediterranean region, chooosing to postpone the discussion of this issue until the current Vienna talks on conventional weapons cuts achieve success.

Meanwhile, Bush declared his country rejects a proposal offered by Gorbachev during his visit to Italy to withdraw the U.S. and Soviet fleets from the Mediterranean, thus adding a new initiative to the series of Soviet initiatives aimed at turning the Mediterranean into a nuclear-free zone and to remove foreign bases from its shores. The initiative also calls for an international conference on Mediterranean security to be attended by the Mediterranean nations and the NATO and Nonaligned Movement states.

On the eve of the summit, the U.S. President announced the Malta summit is an historic opportunity to enhance peace and security. However, to reassure the NATO allies, Bush dismissed any surprises regarding arms cuts in Europe. He said he would not discuss any essential changes in U.S. Forces in the NATO alliance before achieving the arms cuts being discussed by the Vienna East- West conventional weapons talks.

The U.S. President said any significant cuts affecting U.S. Forces under NATO command, apart from those expected in Vienna, will occur only after close consultations with the allies. He also stressed U.S. commitment to the NATO alliance.

Contrary to the Soviet side, which announced the Malta meeting would consider arms control issues, the U.S. side dismissed the possibility of discussing arms control during the Malta meeting and ruled out the possibility of concluding official agreements on specific issues, hoping the superpower summit off Malta's shores would give a new impetus to cuts in offensive strategic weapons, expedite the conclusion of a pact to this effect during the official summit in 1990, and that the Malta talks would enhance mutual understanding on arms cuts.

However, despite the contradictory answers to the many questions surrounding the ships of the superpower meeting in Mediterranean waters, the actual answer remains with the two leaders who came to Malta and turned the spotlight on this small island.

Despite the many unclear statements and attempts to play down the importance of the historic Malta summit, eyes throughout the world are focused on the superpower summit. They expect it to say something or agree about something on world problems, including regional ones which continue to constitute a major threat to peace, as well as East-West relations in light of the deep-rooted

changes in the system in Europe, particularly in Germany, which was the cause of two destructive world wars.

Al-Asad Receives Phone Call From King Husayn

JN0712191089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call this morning from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. Talks centered on issues concerning the two fraternal countries.

Arab League's Ibrahimi Arrives in Damascus 6 Dec

JN0612151789 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, 6 Dec (SANA) — Mr Lakhdar Ibrahimi, assistant secretary general of the Arab League, arrived here at noon today.

Ibrahimi said upon arrival he would return to Lebanon after attending the meetings of the Arab tripartite committee's foreign ministers in Riyadh. He also will take this opportunity to meet with officials in Syria.

Afghanistan

President Najibullah Greets Mali's Traore

LD0612072289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0524 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 5, BAKHTAR—The message of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, addressed to Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali was presented to G. Traore, minister of foreign affairs of that country by Khial Muhammad Katawazi, adviser of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the head of the goodwill mission which has paid a goodwill visit to that country.

The Afghan delegation informed the other side of the latest developments and peaceful proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan. The process of the policy of national reconciliation and the flagrant violations made by Pakistan and the United States of the Geneva Accords.

Minister of foreign affairs of Mali thanked for the message of President Najibullah and expressed the support of his country to the policy of national reconciliation, political solution of the situation around Afghanistan, the 44th resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on Afghanistan and the Belgrade Forum. The Mali foreign minister called for the termination of any kind of interference into the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

He also requested the Afghan head of delegation to convey the greetings of the president of the Republic of Mali to Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Najibullah Greets Finland's President Koivisto

LD0612073889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0521 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 5, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan has sent a congratulatory message addressed to Mauno Koivisto, president of the Republic of Finland on the occasion of the Independence Day of that country to Helsinki today.

The message expresses the hope that friendly relations and mutual comprehension existed between the governments and peoples of the two countries, will be further developed.

Furthermore, Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the socialist Republic of Romania, has sent a gratefulness message addressed to President Najibullah to Kabul in reply to his congratulatory message already sent to Nicolae Ceausescu on the occasion of his reelection as general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party.

Najibullah Meets With Hazara Nationals

LD0812072889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0457 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 7 BAKHTAR—The daily PAYAM, publication organ of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] CC [Central Committee] has frontpaged and photographed President Najibullah's meeting with the representatives of the Hazara nationality in the Gulkhana Presidential Palace on December 6, 1989.

President Najibullah while speaking on the politico-military situation in the country said that the Hazara nationality is a peaceloving and patriotic people and along with the other nationalities in the country has taken active part for the preservation of independence, national honour and territorial integrity of the country. "Plans of the Republic of Afghanistan welcomed the world over" is the headline of the Anis "NATIONAL DAILY". It says that the state of the Republic of Afghanistan which follows peaceful policy has announced policy of national reconciliation policy to stop war and bloodshed in the country. The Pakistani militarists and the USA intend to bring into power the so-called Rawalpindi made government in the RA [Republic of Afghanistan]. It must be said here that this idea is unfounded.

Afghanistan as a peaceful country considers dialogue the only alternative for the solution of the Afghan problem, because it cannot be solved militarily.

The daily KABUL TIMES has printed an article entitled "Council of Ministers Takes Pivotal Decision" on its first page.

The news says that the periodical session of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers presided over by Sultan Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers assessed the draft of the master plan of Turghundi city and pointed out that regarding the local conditions of Turghundi people the master plan was worked out on the basis of the engineering, geological, topographical and climatical surveys conducted by the project making central institute of the town planning department for a period of 20 years. The Turghondi city master plan covers an area of over 720 hectares of land.

"Notes on Pak Violations Delivered", "Hidden Weapons Seized", "President Greets National Day of Finland", "USA May Revise Its Policy", "GDR, USSR Prime Ministers Meet", "Philippine: Situation Seen From Manila", and several other topics are covered by the newspapers of the capital.

Soviet Paper Interviews Najibullah 7 Dec

LD0812071889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 7, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, "Ra" received a

deputy editor-in-chief of the daily IZVESTIYA of the USSR for an interview in Gulkhana Presidential Palace in Kabul today, reported BAKHTAR.

President Najibullah answered to the questions raised by the journalists in relation to political-military situation of the country and realization of national reconciliation policy.

Opposition Groups Continue 'Fierce' Clashes

LD0712215189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] In continuation of vengeful attacks by Rabbani and Gulbuddin extremist groups against each other, fierce clashes recently broke out in the surroundings of Eshkamesh District, Takhar Province, and in Nejrab District, Parvan Province.

The Bakhtar Information Agency military section reported that as a result of these clashes, in which the belligerent groups used heavy weapons against each other, 192 men from the rival groups were killed and dozens of others were injured.

According to another report, fierce clashes recently broke out between the extremist groups of Wahhabi Sayyaf and Mowlawi Khalis in the environs of Khogiani District. As a result of these clashes, 5 men from the belligerent parties were killed and 10 men from the Sayyaf extremist group were arrested by the rival group.

Ministry Issues Statement on Refugees in Iran

LD0712192889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Statement by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan:

The authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran have presented a draft to the Islamic Council Majlis of that country, according to which all Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran should be brought from all parts of that country to special camps which have been earmarked for their residence. In order to justify this action, the Iranian authorities argue in favor of controlling the refugees and preventing the spread of corruption and narcotics.

The Republic of Afghanistan, while completely understanding the concerns of the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with crimes and corrupt activities, and the spread of corruption and narcotics by a number of leaders of the Afghan opposition and ringleaders of the anti-Afghan armed bands, states that such measures concerning all refugees and Afghan citizens residing in Iran—the absolute majority of whom are not partners in the corrupt activities of a limited number of leaders and commanders of the opposition—are contrary to human dignity, human rights norms, and international principles regarding refugees.

The authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran should know that the citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan who, even before the April revolution, had gone to Iran to find work and are working and living in that country; and the Afghan refugees, who have gone as refugees to that country during the recent years for a variety of reasons, are not war prisoners and should not be dealt with like war prisoners. In the opinion of the Republic of Afghanistan, the detention of the Afghan citizens and refugees in camps is in no way a fundamental solution of the refugee problem and cannot be. In our opinion the true solution of the question of the refugees is achieveable through their voluntary return to their fatherland.

In consideration of the poor condition of the Afghan refugees abroad, and concern about their fate, the government of the Republic of Afghanistan has undertaken all measures toward facilitating their return and resettlement. A ministry has been formed within the framework of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan for this purpose and, through utilizing the existing possibilities, the UNHCR [United Nations High Commission on Refugees] authorities are engaged in the resettlement, employment, and other human and economic services of the returnee compatriots. For example, so far tens of thousands of the returnee compatriots have received such assistance.

All rights and privileges including the return of property and others have been considered by the Republic of Afghanistan to the returnees in accordance with law and are being sincerely implemented. The Republic of Afghanistan once again categorically states that, if the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran are truly desirous of the fundamental solution of the Afghan refugee problem in Iran, they should truly assist in this matter. In our opinion the solution of this problem is possible only through the voluntary and peaceful dignified return of the refugees to their proud fatherland, the Republic of Afghanistan and their resettlement in their place of abode.

The Republic of Afghanistan has so far referred to the Iranian authorities concerning the return of the Afghan refugees to their country and have put forward practical and specific proposals including regular charter flights between Kabul and Tehran for the purpose of the removal of refugees from Iran to their country to the Iranian side.

Reiterating its previous proposals, the Republic of Afghanistan once again proposes to the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran that, instead of imprisoning the Afghan refugees in special camps, they should assist in their return through adopting practical steps. In our opinion, if the Iranian authorities agree, in the first step it is possible to form a joint Afghan-Iranian commission for fixing the mechanism of a timetable, the crossing points, and the study of details of the return of refugees to Afghanistan. This commission would study all details

in connection with repatriation and would put forward specific and practical proposals to the governments of Afghanistan and Iran.

The government of the Republic of Afghanistan, while expressing strong dissatisfaction and concern regarding the proposed measures of the Iranian authorities in connection with the forced settlement of the Afghan refugees and citizens in special camps, categorically points out that after this, in particular after the complete withdrawal of the Soviet units from Afghanistan, no political pretext remains for the captivity of and the prevention of refugees to return to their homes. The republic of Afghanistan resolutely demands that the Islamic Republic of Iran should refrain from exerting pressure on refugees and Afghan citizens residing in that country, and should solve this problem through mutual understanding and cooperation with the Republic of Afghanistan. Otherwise the exertion of pressure and the adoption of forceful measures against the Afghan citizens, for whom the Republic of Afghanistan feels responsible, would have undesireable influence on relations between the two countries.

Mujahidin Offensive Near Baghlan Reported

BK0812100189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have captured the ancient city of Hasan Tal and its military posts near Baghlan City. During the operation, a jet fighter plane was shot down. The mujahidin shot down another jet fighter which was bombing the mujahidin positions in the area.

A MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] report says the mujahidin also attacked (Khanjan) (Dershi) Pol-e Khomri, (Pushan), (Ishan), and (Koladand) areas on Sunday [3 December], killing five Khad [Afghan Security Service] agents. Some important buildings in Pol-e Khomri were damaged and a Kabul regime's arms dump was destroyed. According to another report, the mujahidin launched a major attack on Qandahar airport on Tuesday, killing at least 14 soldiers and damaging a number of military vehicles.

India

Singh Says Ties With USSR To Be Strengthened

BK0812083589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, has said his government will strengthen Indo-Soviet cooperation to promote peace, disarmament, and development. In a message to the Soviet Council of Ministers, Mr Singh said bilateral ties have been traditionally stable and lasting. Mr Singh was responding to a congratulatory message from the council on his assumption of office.

Singh Comments on IPKF Pullout, Punjab

BK0812100589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has suggested that the schedule for deinduction of the peacekeeping force from Sri Lanka should be worked out jointly by India and Sri Lanka. In an informal chat with newsmen soon after the swearing-in of the new food and civil supplies minister at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning, Mr V.P. Singh said that he conveyed this to the visiting Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne.

Mr Wijeratne called on the prime minister this morning and handed over a message from the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa. He also discussed bilateral issues with Mr V.P. Singh.

The prime minister also said that an all-party meeting on Punjab would be held within a week. A cabinet panel has been constituted to tackle the Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir problems, he added.

New Lok Sabha Scheduled To Meet 18 Dec

BK0712160989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The new Lok Sabha is to meet from the 18th of this month. The session is likely to continue till the 29th. On the opening day the members will take their oaths. The Rajya Sabha has also been summoned to meet from the 20th of this month. The house is likely to sit till the 29th.

Ministers Promise To Shun Armed Guards

BK0812110889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0954 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 8 (AFP)—India's new ministers have agreed to renounce armed guards and siren-screaming motorcades in line with Premier Vishwanath Pratap Singh who has also decided not to dominate television shows.

Mr. V.P. Singh's 18-strong cabinet Thursday resolved to reassign commandos that have ridden shotgun for Indian politicians since the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984 by two Sikh guards, officials said.

The prime minister, who has thinned his guard as much as federal security agencies would allow, said Thursday he would seek less exposure on state-owned television than his predecessor Rajiv Gandhi, who was widely criticised for monopolising the television for political mileage.

Officials said each of the newly-appointed ministers would make do with a single guard, preferably a plain-clothesman, adding that the politicians had sent their resolution to Mr. V.P. Singh.

"There would be no pilot cars with sirens and other security paraphernalia that were utilised by the ministers of the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi government," the officials added.

Under Mr. Gandhi at least 36 former ministers had more than one guard while six were protected by cordons of "Black Cat" Army commandos after they were believed to have been placed on a death list by Sikh militants in northern Punjab State for their anti-separatist policies.

A total of 1,200 people, including opposition politicians, journalists and scholars, were alloted guards during Mr. Gandhi's 1985-89 rule and police officers constantly complained that most of them asked for security to enhance their status.

But Mr. V.P. Singh reiterated his earlier promise of not pruning Mr. Gandhi's security or evicting him from his fortress-like New Delhi residence patrolled normally by 300 paramilitary troopers and members of the elite Special Protection Group, officials said.

Mr. Gandhi, who recently returned to the new government two luxury, bullet-proof cars presented as gifts during his rule by the Jordanian and West German heads of state, is presently driving in an Indian-made car with welded armored plating.

Mr. Gandhi survived an assassination attempt in 1986.

Friday a newspaper said Information and Broadcasting Minister Parvathaneni Upendra had ordered the heads of the Doordarshan and All India Radio stations to exercise restraint in projecting Mr. V.P. Singh in the electronic media.

The minister, who runs the two stations, also asked radio and television not to broadcast his own image as part of the premier's decision for a low-level government publicity profile.

Mirdha Sworn in as Civil Supplies Minister

BK0812101389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Mr Nathu Ram Mirdha was today sworn in as a member of the union cabinet and will hold the portfolio of food and civil supplies. At a simple ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House], the president, Mr Venkataraman, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the minister. Among those present on the occasion were the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, some of his cabinet colleagues, and other dignitaries.

Mr Mirdha was to be sworn in on Monday [4 December] along with the others, but could not reach Delhi from Jaipur in time.

With the induction of Mr Mirdha, the strength of the Union Council of Ministers has gone up to 20. Immediately after the swearing-in, Mr Mirdha assumed charge of the Food and Civil Supplies Ministry and held discussions with senior officials.

Sri Lanka's Ranjan Wijeratne Meets With Gujral

BK0712160589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, called on the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, in New Delhi today and had an hour-long discussion on bilateral matters. Mr Gujral was assisted by the foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh; the defense secretary, Mr Naresh Chandra; and the Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mr L.L. Mehrotra. The Sri Lankan minister was accompanied by his foreign secretary, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna; adviser to the Sri Lankan president, Mr Bradman Weerakoon; and the Sri Lankan high commissioner in Delhi, among others.

Official sources say that both sides reviewed the recent developments in the context of the process of the deinduction of the Peacekeeping Force. The Sri Lankan foreign minister explained the current situation in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka. Both sides also considered the possibility of finalizing the friendship treaty which has been under discussion by the two countries.

Court Orders Release of 4 in Indira Gandhi Case

BK0712150389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The second charge sheet in the Indira Gandhi assassination conspiracy case has been withdrawn. The orders to this effect were passed by Delhi's session judge, Mr Jashpal Singh, while allowing the plea of the special investigating team to withdraw the conspiracy case in view of the changed political situation.

The four accused in the case were Mr Simranjit Singh Mann, Mr Atinder Pal Singh, Professor Jagmohan Singh Tony, and Professor Dilip Singh. The judge in his four paragraph judgment passed today observed that the accused are discharged and they be released forthwith in this case. Referring to the special prosecutor's plea seeking permission to withdraw the petition, the judge said one does wonder why the move was not made earlier.

Muslims Close Kashmir Bars; Theaters, Shops Next

BK0812110089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1024 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Jammu, India, Dec 8 (AFP)—Bars in tourist hotels and roadside liquor stores throughout the Kashmir valley, including the summer capital of Srinagar, lowered their shutters Friday in fear of reprisals from Muslim militants.

The abrupt closure, which affected all government liquor stores, followed written warnings distributed by the militants Thursday night that bars and liquor stores would "be blown up" if they opened.

Bar owners told journalists they had no option but to comply with the enforced prohibition as the state government had offered no protection in face of the threats.

A militant group calling itself the "Allah Tigers" Thursday night underlined the warning by raiding a bar near a military cantonment in Srinagar, wrecking the place and throwing its liquor supply into the Jhelum River, witnesses said.

With the bars closed, the militants Friday started a new campaign urging cinema houses and video-cassette shops to close by the end of the month.

The warning was the same, owners said: Close or be blown up.

Iran

* Supreme Court Chief Justice Interviewed

90OI0056A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
13 Nov 89 p 10

[Interview with Chief Justice Morteza Moqtada'i; first few paragraphs are introduction; date, place not given]

[Text] The judicial apparatus is one of the most fundamental pillars of every system of government, especially in a government based on Islamic laws and commands. Although Islam stresses the role of proper family and social training and the employment of non-judicial restraining elements to reduce crime, guaranteeing the health of society demands an efficient and strong judicial system, because some individuals, for various reasons, are unable to benefit from non-judicial training, and the continuation of their social crimes must be reduced through judicial punishment. It is therefore clear that the duty of the judiciary in Islam is precisely that of training and reform, and for this reason it tries, through the establishment of calculated laws and regulations, to keep society pure and untainted by corruption.

The difference between the laws of Islam and the contemporary world is that the laws of the world do not have the training and reform functions. For example, the imprisonment of a criminal, which is used in the world as a very efficient punishment, is seen in Islams as a fundamental training measure, but even so, and despite the existence of complete judicial laws with a very high training function, this alone will not go anywhere, because just as good executive law requires a good executive, suitable judicial law also needs a capable manager so that enforcement will be successful.

Unfortunately, in the 10 years since the revolution the judicial apparatus in our country has not been able, in the manner that it should do and as expected, to implement the spiritual principles and commands of dear Islam and the "father of the revolution" His Holiness Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him). Weakness and the failure to deal decisively with social criminals, especially in the time of the war, have endangered the security of society more than ever and caused an undesirable trend to prevail in the judiciary. In several cases this provoked His Holiness Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) and despite his habit of non-interference in the work of executive officials, drew him into direct confrontation with complex judicial issues.

It appears currently that with changes to articles of the Constitution and the centralization of judicial management, most of the problems regarding rapid judicial decision-making have been eliminated, and that the change of management in this apparatus has brought much hope for judicial change in the country and speeding the judicial process among the various classes of people. It is necessary, however, that there also be "social" judicial officials in the nation. In this connection we go among the people to get a sampling of their remarks, criticism, and proposals for the nation's new judicial officials.

The people say:

- The problems of the people cannot be solved simply by enacting laws. There must be a revision of the judiciary and those who are errant and corrupt must be purged and replaced by compassionate, efficient, and committed officials.
- Those who resort to bribery in the courts must be dealt with just as decisively in the judiciary as are the merchants of death.
- What is the reason for the long time it takes to deal with cases, and why must the people be kept waiting in these courts?
- Some people in the lower courts complicate matters and surround the decision-makers on all sides. Opportunists such as this must also be dealt with severely.
- Judicial authorities and officials must be evaluated so that corrupt elements can be identified and dealt with.
- We thank the judiciary for having dealt decisively recently with the merchants of death, criminals, and murderers and hearing their cases in the shortest possible time. We hope this procedure will continue.
- The case load is large and there are few judges. This has meant that it takes a long time to hear a case.
- One of the most important tasks the judicial power must address is the training of educated judges with piety, belief in orthodox Islam, and vigor.

Views of the Supreme Court Chief Justice

After hearing comments from the people about the judicial power, we visit Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Moqtada'i, the respected chief justice of the nation's

Supreme Court, and, raising the criticism and expectations the people have of the judicial power, we ask him for an explanation.

[RESALAT] We begin by asking the chief justice of the Supreme Court to discuss the shortage of judges that plagues the judiciary. He says:

[Moqtada'i] Praise be to God, with the sincere cooperation of the Qom Seminary Teachers' Society, there are now 900 clergymen from Qom Seminary and the other seminaries working in judicial organizations, most of whom, having been tested and certified for scholarly competence by the Qom Seminary Teachers' Society, were recommended to the judiciary. To fill the existing shortage of judges, the respected chief justice, with the help of some members of the Qom Seminary Teachers' Society, has appointed individuals from Qom Seminary to take steps to attract competent and qualified personnel.

[RESALAT] In the current situation, what are the problems facing the organizational structure of the judiciary, and what plans do you have to expedite the work?

[Moqtada'i] From the beginning of the changes to the judicial system by the Supreme Judicial Council, the legal courts were divided into courts one and two, likewise the penal courts were divided into courts one and two and the special civil court, and there were special areas of jurisdiction set in the law for each of these courts. In practice we have come to the conclusion that the movement of cases through the courts is quite prolonged, and in this process they are sometimes diverted from the main track, in the sense that a defendant will confess truthfully to his crimes in the preliminary investigation, but then he meets his lawyer or certain individuals in detention who acquaint him with methods of judicial evasion, thereby creating problems for the court. Of course, if a criminal had confessed to his crime at the outset before a judge, we had no special problem. Therefore, having studied the matter at length, the Supreme Judicial Council, with the help of the Majles Judicial Commission, has prepared the General Courts Formation Law and submitted it to the Majles for approval. When this law is enacted and when experienced and competent judges are appointed to that General Court, it appears that a new change will occur in the judicial power and the judicial organizations. At the same time, to expedite the processing of cases, reforms in this connection have either been enacted or are being enacted, including the Penal Courts 1 and 2 and Supreme Court Branch Law, which has solved many of the problems of the judicial organizations, and a few other reforms have also been sent to the Majles concerning the Legal Courts.

[RESALAT] When asked whether the work of judges can be evaluated while in the judicial organizations, Mr Moqtada'i said,

[Moqtada'i] We do not have a unit to study and evaluate the quality of the verdicts issued in the courts. Of course, an investigator is sometimes sent on a temporary basis by officials to investigate, who sometimes investigate on a case-by-case basis one or several of the lower courts, but all these have been temporary and case-oriented. Recently, however, the decision has been made that a supervisory unit will be formed in the Supreme Court. The procedure will be that cases that usually come to the Supreme Court from the first penal court, the first legal court, the first military court, the special civil court, or the revolutionary court are studied in a branch of the Supreme Court. If defective verdicts are found and confirmed, these studies will be referred to this supervisory unit in written form. The verdicts which were overturned with the reasons for reversal will be sent to that unit, and, in addition to a summary report, an investigation by the branch into that judge's case will be recorded on a fiche that is kept for every judge. After a period of time, with an examining authority it can be determined what percentage of the decisions by a certain judge have been confirmed and what percentage were found to be defective. In cases where most of the decisions are upheld, that judge is praised and encouraged, and those judges who have most of their decisions overturned are warned not to repeat this. If there are repeat occurrences, that judge, in accordance with legal regulations, will face demotion and or a judicial notice or even dismissal.

Concerning the likelihood of a judge being influenced in the course of his work, he said: Of course it is possible that sometimes a judge may be influenced somewhere, or threatened or tempted, and if this becomes known that judge will be dealt with decisively. There are many examples of such confrontations. Also, if it is proved that someone uses his influence to try to tempt or threaten a judge, that case will also be investigated and that individual prosecuted. In this regard, the respected chiefs of the courts in the municipalities must act decisively and with care.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Morteza Moqtada'i, at the end of this interview, discussed the decisive battle against hoarders and price-gougers. He said: With regard to implementing the Government Punishments Law enacted by the Expediency Discernment Council and the decisive battle against hoarders and price-gougers and the proper implementation of this law, the Ministry of Commerce has asked the Supreme Court for representatives, one representative on the Central Price Control Staff, non-government department, and one representative on the Unit to Study Complaints and Review Government-Sector Judicial Decisions. We have appointed representatives in both cases, and we have appointed a branch of the court to review the verdicts of the revolutionary courts. We hope that when these staffs begin their work, we will meet the expectations of the people concerning decisive struggle with hoarders and price-gougers, and bring them to justice.

* RESALAT Reports on 12 Nov Majles Session

90OI0057A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
13 Nov 89 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning the Majles convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, and then was later chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemiyan.

During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, Sadiqi and Khazza'i spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then Mr Karrubi expressed appreciation to Ayatollah Sane'i for thanking the Majles for passing the proposal to preserve the works of Imam Khomeyni.

Then the memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its agenda.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was the single-urgency motion to discuss the Budget Law in the Majles. The second agenda item was the proposed law on the implementation procedure of the Law to Implement Article 49 of the Constitution with regard to wealth amassed from hoarding and price-gouging. Single-urgency status was approved for both proposals.

Likewise, the third agenda item was the proposal on implementation procedure for Principles 85 and 138 of the Constitution with regard to the duties of the Majles speaker, which was approved by the deputies.

The fourth agenda item was on the obligations of the Social Security Organization and the implementation of paragraphs A and B of Article 3 of the Social Security Law (returned from the Council of Guardians) and the final agenda item were the plans to create the necessary facilities to issue business licenses for veterans and released prisoners and to amend some articles in the Guild Law, both of which were approved.

Below are printed the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers, the deputies memos, and details on the proceedings.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr Bayanak, representative of the people of Ahvaz, who began his talk discussing the problems of Khuzestan province. He said:

These are issues that as all of my dear friends know, from the president to the esteemed ministers to the province managers, I have raised in private meetings in various ways many times, but the desired result has not yet been achieved. I don't know how to say that the situation in the hospitals of Ahvaz has become pathetic. Mr president! You know how the hospitals have deteriorated in this war. You know that all our medicinal stocks were exhausted in the war. You know that many physicians have left the province because of the war and because of the province's atmosphere of weak management. Who is going to solve these problems? How can one compensate for weak management of medical treatment and the university? Why must many of the implements of treatment and medicines be sold in shops opposite the pharmacies at several times the price? Of course there is a shortage of medicine, but the shortage of medicine is worse in Khuzestan province than in other areas, especially in Ahvaz. Mr Fazel! I said this to you in a detailed letter, and I have said it several times as well to the respected parliamentary deputy. But to what avail? If you cannot solve our problems, then let others come and do it. Our Medical Sciences University is in a bad state. The respected professors and the students are worried about this situation. Putting one person in charge of the Medical Sciences University has brought nothing but harm to the university.

He then criticized the governor-general's office in Khuzestan. He said: Concerning the respected governor-general's office in Khuzestan, I must say that for more than a year and a half I have been issuing reminders in person, by telephone, and in special mentions on various occasions, and I have insisted that the problems must not get to this point, but God knows that through indifference and dishonor in province affairs, the walls have closed in on all of us and them. We know that through the last 2 years the Khuzestan governor-general's office has been involved with problems such as the imposed war, floods and other problems peculiar to the province, but the basic problem came about because the group in charge of the governor-general's office views problems from the narrow perspective of politics. Mr respected minister of the interior! I say to you as a servant of the people of Khuzestan, many of the political and social problems of the people are tied into their political affairs. The problems of the people cannot be solved with political games. Please conduct a study to determine what has happened in developing the area and making it prosperous.

Why is there such an uproar after minor problems are solved for the people? Moreover, spending money and eliminating this and that are not the only ways to solve the people's problems. You even turn some of them, whom you yourself support, over to officials who do not help them. There may even be some people who oppose you, but they have the right to live. Wouldn't it be better if, instead of doing things like this and getting yourself and the organizations involved, if you would look into the issues of health and health care, education and training, agriculture, and especially the Ahvaz governor-general's office, which in all fairness is a regrettable situation?

Mr Bayanak then addressed himself to the minister of the interior about solving the problems of the province. He said: Mr respected minister of the interior! Be informed that dishonor and the lack of supervision over the province's executive organizations with regard to reconstruction have created a bad situation which seriously demands Your Excellency's attention.

Mr Hashemi, respected president of the republic! The mobilization, the brave members of the mobilization and our zealous tribesmen in Khuzestan, are standing before the enemy like elephants guarding the borders, with no expectations, and they are watching all the Ba'thist enemy's movements with open eyes. But Mr Hashemi! How can a member of the mobilization at the fronts and the borders take care of his family in the cities on 250 tomans a month, in the insufferable summer heat and the deadly winter cold? Most of them, or I should say almost all of them, are the clearly deprived of society.

I ask the great leader, Your Excellency, and the toiling government to deal with this important matter quickly.

Continuing his remarks, the representative of the people of Ahvaz asked Dr Mo'in, minister of culture and higher education, to deal with the intolerable problems at Martyr Chemran University, and asked him to visit this university.

At the end of his talk, he praised and thanked the Majles for attending to the matter of retirees and the Ahvaz Water Organization, the bus service and the mayor's office. He also submitted memos, to the minister of commerce concerning the procurement of primary necessities for the people, to the ministers of petroleum, industry, heavy industries, and mines and metals concerning dealing with a half-million personnel in the province, and to Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani concerning solving the problem of the Fifth Bridge [? word illegible] of Ahvaz.

The second pre-agenda speaker was Dr Rasul Sadeqi-Banabi from the Banab and Malekan electoral district. He said: Without a doubt one can claim that the splendid Islamic revolution is a valuable entry in the annals of history, and in the modern age the heavy weight of its authenticity is on the shoulders of the believing and revolutionary nation of Iran. The qualities of the revolution, which were crystallized in the best and clearest way in the life of our late and peerless leader, themselves show the high values of this divine movement. One must take note for a moment of the goals designated by our dear and late Imam, and efforts must be made to do systematic and precise planning in the cultural dimension of the revolution, and in this connection the great mission of all people concerned about the revolution, and especially the relevant officials such as those in the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, will become clear.

The speaker discussed the economy and industry. He said: Another important matter, which is quite significant for the preservation of the sacred values of the revolution, is deep and real attention to the economic structure of society. Now, after the imposed war and on the threshold of the first development program, the search for causes and precise planning for this demonstrates the sensitivity of this important matter more clearly. Unfortunately, under the former government, although part of the nation's income was allocated for agricultural and industrial affairs, due to the inattention to the need for domestic specialist manpower and the creation of dependent factories by foreign companies without a role for domestic specialists, a sick and dependent economy and industry were created in the nation, and this mostly imposes heavy damages on our present system due to the failure to face the existing realities in the industrial sectors. As examples, one can cite the primary industries that have been created such as iron, and industries for manufacturing tractors and combines. The situation is such that industries that are only partially operative due to the lack of a role in them for domestic specialists, and despite great investments, work at such places as the Bushehr Power Plant and the Bandar Emam Petrochemical Plant cannot be continued by domestic experts. These industries were themselves the cause for squandering much of this nation's capital, so that in the former case more than 5 billion marks have been spent so far and we do not yet have officials capable of making a final decision about whether to continue work or stop this great project. Now, as the Five-Year Plan is being studied, sufficient attention must be given to the reality that the first priority is encouragement of the nation's existing specialist manpower. Planning must be done with a view to the existing characteristics in society so that the best use will be made of them, and most important of all, more serious attention must be given to the training of new new manpower, for these same capable people, and fortunately, in our country there is an intense interest among the people for science and technology, are this Islamic nation's most valuable capital resource. It is with respect to this that in this plan special attention must be given to the creation of higher-level masters and PhD programs in the universities.

Dr Sadeqi added: Unfortunately, sufficient attention has not been given to this in the Five-Year Plan, especially with regard to research. A small figure has been set aside in the budget for research, but its practical size is much smaller. For example, the majority of the allocation has gone to the Atomic Energy Organization. It can be shown with a simple study that the greatest percentage of atomic energy activity is in engineering work rather than in research, and therefore its budget is to be seen elsewhere. It is necessary to mention that our agricultural and industrial independence has been seen as solely a matter of deep attention to research, and the clear goals of a bright future may be outlined with a sufficient budget allocation and the creation of more concentrated centers. Examples are the two matters of water and electrical power which are the foundations of industry and agriculture. Unfortunately, in the building of power stations the Ministry of Energy looks mainly to foreign sources, and it has not presented a plan for research and expansion to build the links in the chain of a domestic power station. Giving a figure of $1 billion for 1,000 megawatts, it is blithely asserted in the Majles that this is the only way to expand electrical energy in the country, yet in these same billion-dollar contracts the transfer of technology and the training of bright scientific personnel could be pursued as a strategic objective. These days independent nations do not engage in such transactions

under any circumstances, but if we do not make a move to build technology, it is a certainty that our factories will again fail to develop, and in view of the climate of industrial growth in our world, we will not see stable and profitable industry.

Concerning the building of dams, he said: With regard to the building of domestic dams we must also emphasize, in these same contracts, the transfer of technology, the training of domestic manpower, and the creation of group organizations and companies. It is even more unfortunate that the industrial nations, in the framework of these same projects and contracts, train their own young personnel instead of training our personnel and engineers.

Bandar Emam Khomeyni is proof of this claim, for in this project the Japanese brought their young engineers and technicians to Iran for training, and moreover they collected their salaries from Iran in the framework of the project. In any case, if we want to strengthen the revolution with concern and love, and guard its exalted values, which were realized by shedding the blood of this nation's best youth, then the budget must be made more vigorous than before for research and industrial and agricultural expansion, and most important of all, we must make efforts, through real plans, to preserve and attract specialists with the values of our Islamic nation. The first serious step in this regard is in this very Five-Year Plan, in which 2 to 3 percent of the budget is allocated to this important matter.

Elsewhere in his talk, the representative of the people of Banab asked the minister of the interior to deal seriously and realistically with the matter of beggary, which is one of our social problems and puts a bad face on our system, and at the same time he thanked the Ministry of the Interior for its serious encounter with the matter of smuggling in the deprived province of Sistan va Baluchestan.

Continuing, Mr Sadeqi added: I must say with regard to my electoral district that in the deprived district of Malekan, where there is less than one hospital bed per 100,000 population, years have gone by and the priorities for physicians in this city are still unmet. Health care conditions in this city are in a most undesirable state, and I ask the respected Ministry of Health and Health Care to give the necessary attention to this important matter. I extend the highest praise and thanks to the Red Crescent of the Islamic Republic, especially the Banab unit, for voluntarily and swiftly building the dam in Banab.

The city of Malekan has been much more unjustly dealt with in agricultural divisions, and a great many villagers have been left out of it. I ask officials to give sufficient attention to this matter.

In conclusion, Dr Sadeqi discussed the matter of implementing Security Council Resolution 598. With its obstruction, the Iraqi regime shows that it still insists on achieving its primary goal of provoking attacks against our Islamic nation, despite its repeated claims throughout the war of wanting peace. Nothing justifies these goals other than this regime's warlike and power-seeking nature. Iraq's mercenary behavior, especially in the signing of military treaties and the building of laser missiles with the cooperation of Western nations and even its illegal nuclear activities with the mobilization of other Arab nations, show more clearly than ever this government's warlike demeanor and lack of good will. We now declare clearly that we will not permit even one foot of the soil of our Islamic nation to remain in Iraqi hands, and this was a truth that we proved to the people of the world time and again with the blood of the best friends of the revolution.

The final pre-agenda speaker was Mr Khazza'i, Mahshahr deputy. During his talk he discussed teaching and training, and began by mentioning the words of His Holiness the Emam (May His Grave Be Sanctified) in this regard. He said:

I will begin my remarks with the words of the founder of the Islamic Republic in his political and divine will with regard to the important matter of teaching and training. "An extremely important and fateful matter is the issue of the centers of teaching and training, from the kindergartens to the universities. The plundered nation must know that most of the lethal blows that befell Iran and Islam during the past half-century came from the universities. If there had been Islamic and national planning in the universities and the centers of teaching and training aimed at national interests with teaching, refining and training children, adolescents and youth, then the nation would never have fallen into the clutches of England, followed by America, and the Soviet Union, the destruction of the homeland would never have been imposed on the deprived and plundered nation, and the foreign orientalists would never have set foot in Iran. Iran's reserves and the black gold of this tormented nation would never have been poured into the pockets of the Satanic powers. The Pahlavi family and its affiliates would never have been able to plunder the nation, to build parks and villas over the bodies of the oppressed people and to fill foreign banks with the hard-earned money of these oppressed ones to be spent for the entertainment of themselves and their associates. If the Majles, the government, the judicial power, and the other organizations had sprung up from Islamic and national universities, our nation would not be grappling with home-threatening problems." The importance of universities in the Imam's words is completely clear, and those in the government must be mindful more than ever of the centers of teaching and training and especially the universities, and they must use all resources to solve the problems of the university students, most of whom are from scattered municipalities. Of course we oppose any kind of action that is not proper, or encounters that are not worthy of the Muslim students of this system. We expect these aware and believing brothers to pursue problems with revolutionary alertness and awareness.

Continuing his talk, he made the point that today's reconstruction must take on special importance and

must, like the war, be the top priority. He said: If all resources and capabilities were used to advance the war, today reconstruction, which is the manifestation of the will of an oppressed nation, must be at the top of the list for this government's work. All organizations, institutions and offices must get involved and be active in this important matter. They must take the suffering of 8 years, the homelessness and vagrancy away from the tormented people and the war refugees and make them hopeful for the future.

Mr Khazza'i then discussed the problems in his electoral district. He said: Mahshahr is a deprived city, and it has remained deprived despite the presence of economic and fundamental centers such as chemical and petrochemical complexes and the Bandar Emam export port, one of the vital economic resources of this nation. During the 8 years of imposed war this city suffered great losses. This city's role in the war was very sensitive and important, and it assumed the burden of meeting the needs of the southern fronts. When Khorramshahr and Abadan were evacuated more than 150,000 refugees from the imposed war moved into this city. All the city's resources were poured into the fronts and given to the war refugees. The city now has vast destruction, and the atmosphere for sound education, health care, and other resources for public well-being do not exist in the city. Although this city is an industrial center and the nation has invested in this area, conditions do not even exist to preserve this investment, and the incentives for experienced and skilled personnel to remain have disappeared, whether they be work associations, the prevailing conditions, or the problems of living and the resources for a livelihood. If the objective is to preserve and continue working and raising the production capacity, this needs believing and skilled personnel who have the incentive to remain, and an interest in work and life, otherwise, we will remain with this amount of production and we will have problems. You can see that in the Mahshahr industrial district, where mostly workers from the existing industrial complexes live, there is not a single good and decent road. The situation of health care and treatment for workers is not a good one. Worker housing is another matter. In the very restricted space of just two rooms lives a family with several boy and girl children. In any case, the need to preserve these national investments, which play a sensitive role in the nation's economy, demands resources. We hope that the brother officials, just as they are working to raise the levels of production, will act favorably to resolve the problems of workers and give order to an unwholesome situation, which has left some passionate workers feeling discouraged, caused them to quit industry and led some of them to go to other areas.

He also called for investigation of the situation at Bandar Emam Khomeyni, and in this regard he added: The failure to unload merchandise on schedule, due to the lack of sufficient resources and freight trucks, has done tremendous damage to the public treasury. Even now about $74,000 is paid daily to foreign ships as penalties for delayed unloading. Yet despite this, due to the lack of covered storage facilities for goods, perishable goods such as rice, sugar, and hemp are kept in open areas, which opens the possibility for any kind of damage.

At the end of his talk, the Mahshahr deputy submitted a memo to the minister of roads and transport concerning the Bandar Emam Mahshar Road, and to the minister of the interior concerning the governor of this city.

Details of the Proceedings

As the first item on the agenda of yesterday's public Majles session, a single-urgency motion was submitted to the effect that deliberations on the Budget Law should begin every year early in the month of Dey [22 December - 20 January].

Article 1: Effective the date of enactment of this single article bill, discussions on the year's Budget Law will begin in the Majles every year early in the month of Dey [22 December - 20 January].

Regarding the single-urgency status, Mr Akrami spoke in opposition and Hoseyni Shahrudi spoke in support, and then the proposal's single-urgency status was put to a vote and approved.

Second Agenda Item

The second agenda item was the proposal on the implementation procedure for Principles 85 and 138 of the Constitution with regard to the duties of the Majles speaker.

Article 1: In the implementation of Principles 85 and 138 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the responsibilities, prerogatives, and wages given in Article 5 of the Presidential Duties, Prerogatives and Responsibilities Law and its note enacted 8/22/1365 [13 October 1986] are transferred to the Majles Speaker. The Council of Ministers and each of the ministers and commissions mentioned in Principle 138 of the Constitution, as well as the representative or representatives mentioned in Principle 127 of the Constitution must announce in writing their decisions which have to do with decisions and prerogatives of the Council of Ministers to the Majles speaker, and if necessary, if requested by the Majles speaker, they must provide the Majles speaker with the text of the talks between the Council of Ministers and the aforementioned commissions.

Article 1 above was put to a vote and approved.

Memos From the Deputies to the Nation's Executive Officials

- Mr Musavi, Izeh deputy: To the minister of energy, solve the problem of potable water for Izeh.
- Deputies Nowruzi and Mir-Valad, Maolayer deputies: To the minister of health and treatment concerning activation of the hospital under construction and reconstruction of the bombed hospital. To the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, observe Islamic criteria in the portrayal of faces and clothing

and the elimination of propa

- Mr Taha'i, Tonekabon and aganda advertisements.
  Plan and Budget Organizatio Ramsar deputy: To the
  interior and the minister of on and the minister of the
  diting the construction of dik energy concerning expe-
  at Shatrud and a reservoir dikes, bridges, and sea walls
  the problem of drinking wa am at Ramsar, resolving
  ible], and Saranmahalleh. ter at Ramsar, [not leg-
- Mr Khalkhali, Qom represent
  agriculture concerning the de tative: To the minister of
  by the farmers of Qom. elivery of cement needed
- Mr Saleh-Abadi, Mashhad de
  the interior and the minister eputy: To the minister of
  the matter of oread in Mashh of commerce, attend to
- Mr Taha, Bukan deputy: To th had.
  and training, establish a te the minister of education
  teacher training center in B teacher's college and a
  educational atmosphere. To Bukan and improve the
  and higher education, establ the minister of culture
  animal husbandry college in lish an agricultural and
  of commerce, increase the all Bukan. To the minister
  materials and establish equili llocation of construction
  province allocations. ibrium in the division of
- Mr Mozafari-Nezhad, Tehra
  ister of commerce and the m an deputy: To the min-
  attend to the bread situation minister of the interior,
  the southern parts of the city, in Tehran, especially in
  , as quickly as possible.

Third Agenda Item

The third agenda item was the p
Social Security Organization to in proposal to require the
and B, Article 3 of the Social Implement Paragraphs A
from the Council of Guardians). Security Law (returned

Commission amendment to proc
Council of Guardians: In the last cure the approval of the
1, the term "Chief of the Plan and line of Note 1 of Article
will be amended to "Minister of d Budget Organization"
Finance". The commission amer f Economic Affairs and
by the deputies. endment was approved

Fourth Agenda Item

The fourth agenda item was the
Council of the Economic and Leg e report from the First
concerning the bill to amend ar gal Affairs Commission
Affairs Law. articles from the Civil

The entire bill was approved b
commentary from the commissio by the deputies after
ernment's representative. ion expert and the gov-

Fifth Agenda Item

The fifth item on the agenda was t
necessary facilities to issue busine the motion to create the
and released prisoners and to ame ess licenses for veterans
Guild Law. end some articles in the

Deputy Sheybani spoke in opposit
spoke in favor of this proposal. Af sition and deputy Vela'i
government's representative and t after comments from the
the commission expert,
the entire proposal was put to a vote and approved by the deputies. Article 1 of this proposal says:

The Ministry of Commerce must issue business licenses for the following people if they have a place of business that they either own or rent:

A) Veterans and released prisoners of war.

B) The head of a family with a male child who has been martyred.

C) A primary dependent of a martyr who must assist the martyr's family financially.

In Note 2, Article 1, it says: Unions must both accept tradesmen in these categories and provide them with the same facilities and resources they provide to other tradesmen who are union members.

Article 2: The veterans, released prisoners, and respected martyr families mentioned in Article 1 may not have other employment or have received an agreement in principle from other ministries.

In Article 8 of the bill amending articles of the Trade System Law, it says:

The Trade Association will be formed in the following two ways from elected representatives of the central trade unions or the trade unions:

A) The Production and Technical Services Unions Trade Association.

B) The Distribution and Services Trade Association.

Final Agenda Item

The final agenda item was the proposed law on the implementation procedure of the Law to Implement Article 49 of the Constitution with regard to wealth amassed from hoarding and price-gouging, which was submitted to the Majles with more than 55 signatures as a single-urgency motion.

Concerning single-urgency status, deputy Movahedi-Saveji spoke in opposition and deputy Saleh-Abadi in support, and then the question of single-urgency status was put to a vote and approved.

Tomorrow morning there will be a public Majles session.

Newspaper Condemns Austrian 'Siege' of Embassy

NC0812153689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Austria Is Playing the U.S. Anti-Iran Game"]

[Text] The Austrian government has put a siege to the premises of the Iranian mission in that country since last week. The surrounding has been justified under the pretext of arresting three Iranian diplomats allegedly involved in the assassination of Abdulrahman Qasemlu.

Leader of banned Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Qasemlu was assassinated in Vienna on July 13, 1989 while holding talks with Iranian diplomats including Mohammad Ja'fari Sahrarudi. The meet had been arranged to seek ways to end hostilities with the Islamic Republic government. Sahrarudi was also injured by gunshots in the terrorist attack.

From the Iranian perspective the whole episode was a handiwork of the Iraqi regime which has always tried to destabilize Iran's Kurdistan Province, this time under the pretext of Iran's involvement in the murder of the Kurdish leader.

Iran made numerous pleas to the Austrian government to closely investigate the murder case but to no avail. The Vienna government rather intentionally stopped short of making any serious attempt to identify and nab the terrorists.

To justify its own inability or perhaps in pursuit of an overseas orchestrated anti-Iran campaign Austria accused Iran of having masterminded the attack on Qasemlu and its own diplomat!

Some Austrian cabinet ministers officially charged Iran with the murder. This, of course, also reflected internal joustings among the cabinet ministers in Vienna who found the Iran issue a good pretext to settle scores with rivals.

However, in the very first days after the incident, the Iranian diplomat Sahrarudi explained everything to Vienna police so clearly that the Justice Ministry sought no charge against him. He returned to Tehran and no Iranian present at the talks with Qasemlu was implicated as a suspect.

What has happened now that after the passing of some five months the Austrians have suddenly come up with this very rash move of laying a siege to the Iranian Embassy and cultural house in their capital?

The issue has also been making rounds of the American broadcast and print media in a hyperbole that only suits the American cheap and rash politics and propaganda.

Meanwhile the Austrians, playing into the hands of their American friends, have allowed the latter to get them involved in their dirty games against the Islamic Republic. The Vienna government has joined Washington's anti-Iran games and at the same time is trying not to totally alienate Iran. An impossible task indeed! The Austrian Government should be quite wary of Iran's firm belief in tit-for-tat policy.

It is just out of question that a government throws mud at Iran's image and cordons off the Iranian mission in its territory at the beckoning of the U.S. and expect Iran not to react!

The Islamic Iran is, of course, for cordial relations with all non-hostile governments. In the recent months, in particular, Tehran has gone out of way to mend fences with all those seeking warm relations based on mutual respect and non-interference in its domestic affairs. Austria and Iran have had no outstanding issues and expectations could be high on the promotion of ties to their fullest swings. But this sincere intention does not hold Iran back from reciprocating hostile moves to the same proportion.

Views U.S., USSR Influence

NC0812154189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Is Malta Another Yalta?"]

[Text] Inclement weather has brought about a forced change of venue in the superpower summit in Malta. The American and Soviet presidents had to abruptly, due to gale-force winds and lashing rain, move to a Soviet liner, the "Maxim Gorkiy," despite initial plans to hold the meet on another vessel. Does all this signify, at least symbolically, that the two superpowers are already off to a bad start? Well let it not be so if they ever are thinking of anything worthwhile and contributing to world peace. Some observers, however, are fond of comparing the Malta summit with the one that took place between the two superpowers in Yalta in the summer of 1945. In that summit the two world powers actually sat together and decided on their own spheres of influence. In other words they virtually divided the world into two and for a while at least gulped it down shaping all major events the span of the globe and subjected most developments to their own selfish interests.

But the fact, as bitter as it might be, is that the world today is not at all similar to what it used to be way back in the mid-40s in all economic, social and geopolitical aspects.

The first question that comes to mind is, do the superpowers now enjoy the same influence and can they put the same weight on countries affiliated to their political order as they did in the 40s and early 50s in particular?

Polycentrism that is now sweeping East Europe definitely runs counter to any idea of having satellite states. Adherence to this doctrine has practically distanced the whole bloc from being a rubberstamp entity that would earlier leave nothing to curry favor from Moscow.

The non-communist government of Poland and the Stalinist regime of Romania are by far different from what Gorbachev had ever imagined in his wildest dreams, when he initiated his reforms.

On the other end of the spectrum too the West cannot claim to have the same clutch on its once strategic allies or satellite states. This much can be granted of course the recent defeats for communist regimes may be from one perspective be taken as a victory on the other guy's card. [sentence as published]

But a thorny issue is the fact that Western Europe will not leave much for U.S. maneuvering in the 90s, as the

whole continent seems to be emerging as a new giant. The Bonn-Paris axis appears quite committed to challenge both superpowers, especially the U.S. And if they join hands the chances are they can.

Bush can, therefore, not represent, as the American presidents used to, the West in its totality any longer. The world seems to be heading for a more diverse polarization in the years to come.

Amidst this what is quite regrettable is the fact that the two superpowers still enjoy a lot of influence in the Third World. A lot of the Third World problems have their roots in the imperialist policies of the world powers.

Poor economic conditions coupled with its inevitable consequence, cultural poverty, along with a number of other parameters have provided a suitable ground in these nations for the superpowers' influence.

In Malta, however, a large part of the discussion between the two leaders will be spent on Middle Eastern issues. For a fact the key to the settlement of many of the regional issues, unlike the European scene, is with the superpowers. Issues such as the Lebanese and Palestinian crises, Iraq's rejection of the U.N. Resolution 598 for peace and the Afghanistan problem can all be handled by the two world powers.

Yet regional nations should by no means allow the superpowers to settle these problems in a way that will only serve their own global designs.

Protest Lodged With UN Over Iraqi Violations

LD0712223589 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] United Nations, New York, Dec. 7 IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran has lodged a protest with the United Nations against three cases of ceasefire violations by the Iraqi regime.

In a letter to the U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Wednesday, Iran's permanent envoy to the UN objected to the abduction of an Iranian soldier by Iraqi troops in Baneh border region, western Iran on 17 September.

The soldier, Ashur Mohammad Varshi, was abducted and taken to Iraq when he was on duty in a watch post, the letter said and called for his immediate repatriation.

Early on Friday, 1st September, an Iraqi boat carrying a white flag approached an Iranian boat on Bahmanshir river from al-Omayya oil platform and opened fire on it from a 100 meter distance, the letter said.

On September 16, the letter continued, eight Iraqi bulldozers were seen levelling a road linking Birajim to Molla Mostafa heights [placenames as received] in order to prepare the road for asphalt.

The Baghdad regime has time and again violated the U.N.-mediated ceasefire enforced between Iran and Iraqi last August.

Mines Minister Views Export, Import of Minerals

LD0512093789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Our correspondent reports on lifting conditions for the payment of foreign currency deposits [to the government which applied to those engaged in exporting goods from the country] from mineral nonmetallic products, and the remarks made in this connection by the minster of mines and metals.

[Unidentified correspondent] The foreign currency deposit condition on 48 types of mineral products have been lifted. Mr Mahluji, minister of mines and metals announced this piece of news in an interview with reporters. He pointed to the facilities established in the area of mineral export, and said;

(Begin Mahluji recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the first 5-year plan of the Islamic Republic, which has been submitted to the Islamic Majlis, we have forecast that the export of mineral products wil stand at $1.3 billion, but we think that the collection of laws and regulations which exist in the country are not adequate for reaching this goal. It was for this very reason that the Ministry of Mines and Metals presented a plan to the cabinet, within the framework of the government's policies, part of which comprises of removing the foreign currency deposit or giving discounts and reducing the amount. Thanks be to God, last night this was passed in the respected meeting of the cabinet. We believe that the role and share of the Islamic Republic will be determined by this means in the world market concerning mineral products.

The products that we have selected in this program for export are those that do not need sophisticated technology for extraction, and do not need a great deal of investment, expensive equipment, or high capital expenditure in foreign currency. We think that it will create employment and covers a vast geographical area in the country, especially in deprived areas. These products could be in a position to compete in world markets from the standpoint of price and quality, and we have enough mines with these products in the country. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Commentary Warns Against Liberalism

NC0712181389 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Nov 89 p 18

[M. Sa'adat commentary: "The Bankruptcy of Liberalism in Iran"; first paragraph is newspaper's introduction]

[Text] The remarks by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at the gathering of the Basiji commanders next to the imam's tomb, where he

discussed the treachery of the liberals throughout the revolution, were the inspiration behind the following article to which we draw your attention:

"On 12 August, Baden Kopf [name as published] briefed Bazargan, Yazdi, and Entezam for 2 hours on the situation in the area. The political attache was also present at the meeting. The meeting was to have been only 1 hour long, and the various questions asked show that there was acceptance." Document No 56-S9 found at the nest of spies.

"Bazargan then, hesitating in choosing the words he used, said that the Liberation Movement believes in the Constitution and that if the shah is willing to implement the Constitution, the movement would be ready to accept the monarchy." Document No. 20-S21 found at the nest of spies.

The implementation of the law on parties in Iran, with all its pros and cons, unfortunately paved the way for justifying the existence of liberals and gave sham parties breathing space. Some people, in the belief that the public had forgotten earlier deceits, formed the wrong impression and once again started to pay lip service to "democracy." Among these were the "liberals" and the likes of Bazargan, who had been defeated at the service of U.S. policy in Iran.

"Liberalism" is a general term which has inevitably become a detested word in Iran.

Irrespective of the demagogical meanings given to it in the various dictionaries of the East and the West, after the second revolution in Iran—that is the occupation of the American nest of spies—liberalism, the true nature of which was exposed, became known as a process of outright dependence.

In Iran, words like "democracy," "division of power," "private ownership," "human rights," and so on, which are uttered by the Bazargans of the West's policy, have no market. The reason for this is very clear. Economic and political liberalism is the gift that intellectuals who returned from the West brought back with them. Their enchantment with Western democracy has turned them into worshippers of foreign countries inside their own country, so much so that with the emergence of the Islamic revolution, they agreed to serve the U.S. Embassy in seeing to the revolution's decline.

The Great Satan used these pro-Western elements in its efforts to spread its roots in society. Thus, the contacts between the U.S. Embassy and the various political groups pursued two major objectives: First, to gain the necessary information on the situation of opponents; and second, to make the best use of its supporters in critical social and political situations by injecting them into the scene behind the mask of opposition in a bid to gain power by resorting to traditional social processes.

We know the outcome of the support by the Liberation Movement, the National Front, and so on for Washington. The likes of Amir Entezam, Moqaddam-Maraghehi, Minachi, and Bazargan were the offspring of a network of contacts, the end of the string which was in the hands of the CIA. "Liberalism" in Iran was actually like a puppet whose strings were pulled by the United States.

The great mistake of the liberals in Iran was their ignorance of the nature of the Islamic revolution. At a time when millions of Iranian Muslims were shouting "death to America," Morteza Bazargan, the interim prime minister's nephew, was assuring the United States that the interim government supported the best relations with the West and even wanted to continue its oil sales to Israel!

This was why immediately after the downfall of the interim government, the multicolored specter of counterrevolutionary groups, especially the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq], these "spiritual children of Mr Bazargan," started crying "O Freedom," but we have seen what ascending Islam brought to their freedom-loving liberalism!

A decade has passed since the revolution and there is no doubt about the revolution's anti-American line. The wounded nation is not fooled by the West's democracy. The law of parties in Iran is being implemented on the basis of Islamic democracy. However, with the explicit documents on the Liberation Movement and other American agents we have in our hands, will the Article 10 committee give new life to the spies and grant them the permission to operate?

Let us be alert and not be fooled by sham "peace" slogans which are fed by the West and America.

Commentator Discusses Continuing 'Oppression'

NC0412114889 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Nov 89 p 2

[Seyyed Hasan Mirdamadi commentary: "Tyranny—Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"]

[Excerpts] We joined the ranks of the oppressed on the day the United States gave the green light and offered unstinting assistance to the Iraqi regime's heavily armed Armed Forces so that it could launch a shameless and bestial attack against the Islamic nation in the hopes of transforming Khuzestan into Arabistan and opening the "eastern door of the Arab nation." Defenseless men, women, and children were subjected to bombardment in their homes. What was even worse was that we were labeled as warmongers in the propaganda of the Eastern and Western criminals. This was the height of oppression. To whom, except Almighty God, could we protest? [passage omitted]

We accepted Resolution 598 and drank the cup of poison for the sake of the interests of Islam (what better metaphor can there be than the one uttered by the imam?). Our officials endorsed the acceptance of the resolution to uphold the interests of Islam and to blacken the faces of those who had insisted on it and reveal their superficiality and simplemindedness.

The day after the acceptance of the resolution, Iraq and its hypocrite [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] lackeys, along with Western propaganda, attacked us because their erroneous calculations had led them to believe they could finish what they had begun. The heroic resistance foiled all these attempts. The silence of the international community further highlighted our nation's oppression and no one talked about who the warmonger was!

From the day we unconditionally accepted Resolution 598 until today (!), this resolution has lacked all credibility in the hands of the lackeys of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and half of the first clause has yet to be fully implemented. This has only reinforced the Security Council's lack of credibility (something we repeatedly complained about in past years) before its very own lackey, but once again we are being victimized by their propaganda as those who are not prepared to exchange POW's!

This is the neutral Security Council! This is the even more neutral United Nations! This is the humane International Red Cross! Western propaganda mills, which have no limits to their impartiality, continue to spread this propaganda to sow doubt in the hearts of our nation. [passage omitted]

Our oppression continues, while the war may erupt once again because of the loss of credibility of international organizations and our POW's remain in the clutches of our unhuman enemy (the exact numbers of our oppressed POW's have not yet been announced). We will continue to be tyrannized once again tomorrow and on that day, as for the past 11 years, only the vigilance, readiness, and mobilization of the people will unravel the knots in the military and moral fields, knots that can never be unravelled by a single group or pompous international organization, which are enemies of humanity.

Pakistan

President Receives UK Minister; Accord Signed

BK0712162189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The United Kingdom will provide assistance worth over 1 billion rupees for a second water supply and sanitation project in Karachi and for the rehabilitation of the Sukkur Barrage. An agreement to this effect was signed in Islamabad today by British Minister for Overseas Development Mrs Lynda Chalker and V.A. Jafarey, the prime minister's adviser on finance and economic affairs. The UK Government has also pledged a grant of 25 million pounds for new projects which include programs for teacher training, basic medical facilities, development of slum areas, and a water supply in rural areas.

Mrs Lynda Chalker and Syed Amir Hyder Kazmi, the federal minister for health and social welfare, held detailed discussions on the scheme relating to basic medical care facilities in Islamabad today.

Mrs Lynda Chalker, the UK minister for overseas development, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. She informed the president that during her current visit, she will review Pakistan's development requirements. The president said Pakistan's current trade deficit with the United Kingdom can be removed if the quota on exports of Basmati rice and other Pakistani products, like textiles, and other trade restrictions are relaxed.

President Witnesses Air Exercise at Sargodha

BK0612162889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] The president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has declared that the ideological and geographical frontiers of Pakistan are well protected in the strong hands of the extremely motivated and highly professional armed forces. He was speaking to the officers and air men at PAF [Pakistan Air Force] base, Sargodha, which he visited today to review the progress of the ongoing exercise, "High Mark".

The president said from what he had observed today, he had no doubt that the officers and men of the PAF will live up to the expectations of the nation. He expressed his full confidence in their professional ability and patriotic zeal which were sufficient to overcome their deficiency in numbers or equipment.

Referring specifically to the exercise "High Mark", the president said it was meticulously organized and being brilliantly executed. Its integration with the army exercise "Zarb-i-Momin" [assault of the Muslim] was in fact a major step toward the creation of an integrated defense system.

The president, who was received by the chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah, was briefed on the objectives, progress and achievements of the exercise so far. Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan later visited the flight line and air defense alert area and witnessed the display of all the aircraft participating in the exercise.

Faisalabad-Bound Plane Delayed Due to Bomb Hoax

BK0712154889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] A Faisalabad-bound Pakistan International Airlines [PIA] Boeing plane had to make an emergency landing at Karachi Airport about an hour after takeoff this morning, following false information that a bomb

had been planted on the plane. All passengers were disembarked through the emergency doors of the plane. The PIA's security personnel, Air Force security force, and bomb disposal squads jointly searched the plane, but nothing dangerous was recovered. The plane later took off for its destination.

AFP Reports Bomb Scare

BK0712170089 Hong Kong AFP in English 071654 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Karachi, Dec 7 (AFP)—A Pakistan International Airlines Boeing 738 on a domestic flight made an emergency landing here Thursday after an anonymous bomb threat was called in, PIA officials said.

The plane, carrying 129 passengers and seven crew, was evacuated immediately after landing in this southern port city.

Airport security forces backed by Air Force specialists scoured the plane for more than six hours without finding any trace of an explosive device.

The threat was phoned in by an anonymous caller 15 minutes after the Boeing took off for a regular flight between Karachi and Faisalabad, 1,200 kilometers (745 miles) to the north.

The airport's control tower immediately ordered the pilot to turn the plane around.

On November 23, a bomb that had failed to detonate was found aboard a Saudi Arabian Airlines Boeing 747 carrying 358 passengers and crew which made an emergency landing in Islamabad after officials were alerted.

An investigation into the failed bombing attempt on the Riyadh-bound flight has so far provided no results, officials in the Pakistani capital said.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that Saudi Arabia had provided Pakistani officials with a list of "terrorists" who might "threaten the interests" of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called last month's bombing attempt a "criminal act ... aimed at damaging the extremely good relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia."

Sri Lanka

President Briefs Cabinet on Dispatching Envoy

BK0712134889 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] President Premadasa told the cabinet of ministers that Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne was sent to New Delhi yesterday to brief Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh of the current situation in the north and east and to expedite the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force]. The president said that the Indian prime minister had announced that he would withdraw the IPKF from Sri Lanka as soon as possible and also take measures to improve relations with Sri Lanka. Mr Premadasa added that the Sri Lankan delegation would be able to give a comprehensive report on the situation in the north and east and to clarify any question that the Indian prime minister may have. Mr Premadasa also informed that he personally telephoned the Indian prime minister on the evening of Tuesday the 5th and he was very willing to accept his envoy and learn about the country's urgent concerns and the present situation.

General C. Ranatunge, secretary to the state minister for defense, has said that there had been no fresh arrival of Indian troops as reported in some newspapers. Gen Ranatunge, who took part in today's cabinet news briefing, said that the soldiers who went on leave had come back to wind up their camps to return back home. The Indian troops will totally vacate the (?Mannar) area by tonight and Vavuniya in the next 2 days.

In reply to a question, he said that the Tamil National Army [TNA] had fired at the Batticaloa police station and places such as the police communication center and the railway station. He stressed that the government was not involved with the TNA and that the state was taking all possible measures to solve the problem politically with everybody through consultations.

In reply to another question, Gen Ranatunge said that a clash was reported between the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] the TNA early this morning at Panugama of Kalawanachikudy. The TNA lost five of its cadres and some weapons while the LTTE lost one of its group leaders.

LTTE Asks Singh To Free 'Political Prisoners'

BK0712165489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1643 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Madras, India, Dec 7 (AFP)—The dominant Tamil rebel group in Sri Lanka Thursday urged newly elected Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh to release all Tamil political prisoners captured by Indian soldiers.

"We wish to bring to your earnest attention and serious consideration the pathetic plight of Tamil political prisoners who are in custody in various Indian Army camps," the Political Committee of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a message.

"Ever since the outbreak of the unfortunate armed conflict between the Indian forces and the LTTE, nearly 2,000 innocent civilians, suspected of being LTTE supporters, and over 300 LTTE cadres have been arrested," the message released in the southern Indian port city said.

"Over 150 LTTE cadres were arrested in (the southern Indian state of) Tamil Nadu last year. Most of them, we

wish to point out, were injured and maimed and were undergoing medical treatment.

"The rest were political cadres of our organisation, who took refuge in India and were working at the LTTE's political office," it said.

Indian troops, sent to Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority north and east under a 1987 peace pact aimed at ending a Tamil separatist campaign, are now in the process of withdrawing from the island nation.

More than 2,000 suspected LTTE and some 1,000 Indian soldiers have died by official count in two years of bitter fighting.

5,000 Indian Troops Withdraw From Mannar 7 Dec

BK0712160889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1554 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Madras, India, Dec 7 (AFP)—Some 5,000 Indian troops pulled out of Mannar in the northwest of Sri Lanka Thursday, making it the third district they have vacated since September, Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) sources here said.

The pullout, three weeks ahead of a deadline for total withdrawal, follows Saturday's directive given by the new Indian Government of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh asking the Army to speed up its withdrawal timetable.

The Indian troops will complete their pullout from Vavuniya District in the next couple of days, the IPKF sources said.

The troops had earlier pulled out of Ampari and Batticaloa District in the island nation's Eastern Provinces.

India sent the Army to Sri Lanka following a 1987 peace accord that sought to end Tamil separatism, and in September New Delhi agreed to withdraw the remaining 45,000 troops from the island republic by December 31.

(In Colombo, Secretary to the State Ministry of Defence General Cyril Ranatunga said earlier Thursday: "We are sending additional policemen to Mannar."

(Some 25,000 Indian troops would remain in Sri Lanka following the Mannar pullout, according to Colombo. Mr Ranatunga denied reports that some Indian troops were returning.)

Security Forces, Police Trap 300 TNA Troops

BK0812104589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1016 GMT 8 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 8 (LANKAPUVATH)—About 300 cadres of the illegal Tamil National Army [TNA] have been trapped by the security forces and the police in Batticaloa. They have been holed out since Wednesday in two public buildings, the telecommunication centre vacated by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force], and the university, in the eastern town of Batticaloa. Security sources told LANKAPUVATH that the 300 TNA cadres were surrounded by security forces and the police and had been called on to surrender. They said there was no way out for these militants and it was only a matter of time for their surrender.

The police and security forces were acting with a great deal of patience, but if the TNA men did not surrender within a reasonable period of time, the military would have no alternative but to move in and capture them.

The TNA was reported to have suffered heavy casualties in clashes with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] yesterday. They also suffered very heavy casualties in abortive attacks on the police complex at Batticaloa.

Meanwhile, the IPKF which had earlier moved out of the Amparai and Batticaloa districts, completed de-induction of its troops from Mannar yesterday.